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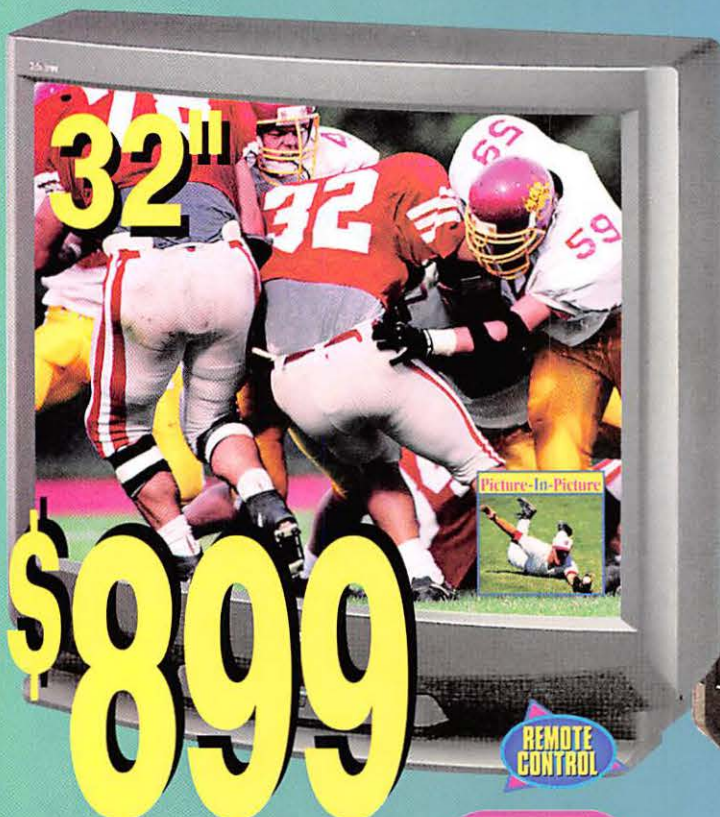
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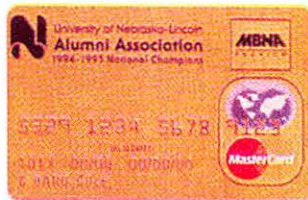
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C O N T E N T S

October 19, 1996 • Volume 16, No. 12

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Aaron Taylor always wanted to play for a Texas school. But when Texas Tech turned him down, he took his "undersized" potential to Nebraska. Now he comes home as an All-America candidate.

28 Juggling Act

Not only a defensive stopper, Maria Hedbeck has taken on the roll of tutor and coach to NU's up-and-coming players.

By Mike Friend

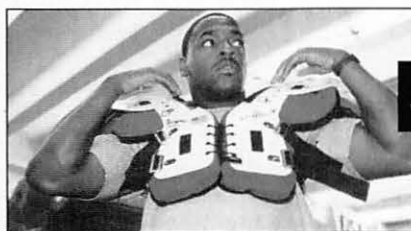
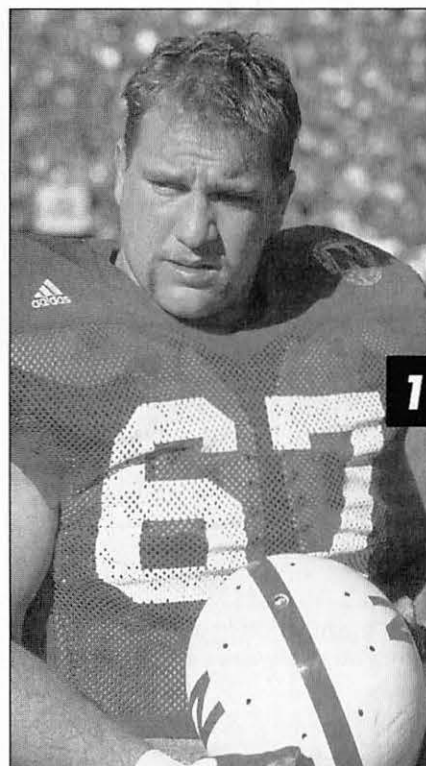
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The numbers and size are basically the same. But can DeAngelo Evans measure up to the Barry Sanders yardstick he's been compared to so often?

By Mike Babcock

34 Best Of The Best: The Numbers Game (Jerseys 41-50)

Dave Rimington left Nebraska as one of the highest-decorated players in school history. He's also our pick at jersey No. 50.



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NEXT ISSUE

Will be mailed on
October 20, 1996.



LETTERS

In Oct. 5, 1996 "Letters," Scott Thompson said the ASU-Nebraska review story was "a sad piece of whining drivel."

As far as I could see on TV, it was a fluke and we Nebraska fans have grounds and reason "to whine." Every dog has a day and ASU had one Sept. 21. We consider the Nebraska football team still No. 1 unless we meet our

opponent on neutral grounds. See Sagarin's football ratings in *USA Today* (Oct. 1, 1996).

What is an "ex-Cornhusker fan?" Because Nebraska lost, a fan was lost? We don't need fans like Scott Thompson. Nebraska has a lot of true fans that follow the Huskers rain or shine. Once you are a Husker fan, you're always a Husker fan.

Ilmars Bergmanis
Des Plaines, Ill.

The views expressed by Chris Dishman and Aaron Taylor echo the views of Husker fans everywhere. After the loss to Arizona State, I didn't want to talk to anyone either, and I couldn't sleep. But Taylor said that watching film got him back in the right state of mind, that he was able to put the ASU game behind him and made him concentrate on the Colorado State game.

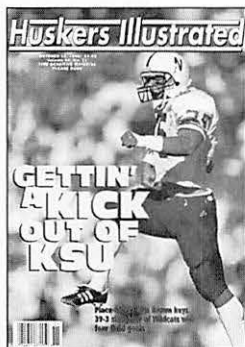
Clearly, Taylor was right. The adjustments that he, Dishman and the other Husker offensive linemen made proved invaluable as they opened up the holes for the backs both against Colorado State and Kansas State. It also doesn't hurt that we have talented runners such as DeAngelo Evans and Ahman Green.

The change in coaching philosophy — rotating players in and out of the game to keep fresh players in the game — proved to be just what the Cornhuskers needed. Too often in the past, Nebraska has relied on the fact that the offensive linemen were so much bigger and stronger that the starting five could manhandle an opponent all day. But as other teams catch up in size and strength, the use

of more, fresh players become necessary.

Kelvin Swift
Nuckolls, Neb.

Please, please, please! There's plenty of Husker bashing going on in national publications and on the internet. The last thing I want to see in Huskers Illustrated is a negative



letter from some punk with an Arizona State e-mail address. *Huskers Illustrated* is a warm, satisfying piece of my home state that I anxiously await each week. And while I understand that serious journalists strive to remain unbiased, I've come to expect a Big Red smile from your publication. Leave the equal time to the politicians, and all hail the Huskers.

D. Carlson
Wetmore Colo.

Take cover because the ceiling is falling in on the country's top football conference — the Big 12. Rusty Burson's story "Beleaguered

fromTheEDITOR

In this somewhat decaying era surrounding the concept of team sports, where the I's seem to have the majority of the say, it's refreshing to hear of athletes taking hits, which could affect them individually, for the benefit of the team.

This week, two stories reflect that kind of commitment at Nebraska.

Aaron Taylor earned first-team All-Big Eight honors at guard after starting all 12 games last season. He led the national champion Cornhuskers in knockdown, or "pancake," blocks with 128.

His senior season appeared it would be more of the same as he earned preseason All-America honors (*Athlon* and *Football News*). Then Nebraska's coaching staff dropped a bomb — Taylor would move from guard to center, replacing Aaron Graham. The reasoning was that it was the best way to get the Huskers' best five linemen on the field at the same time.

As Mike Babcock points out in "Texan Two-Step (pg. 12)," the transition from guard to center hasn't been as easy as Monday morning quarterbacks might think. Earlier in the season coach Tom Osborne said there was concern that the coaches had made an "average" center out of a "great" guard. Those concerns have been alleviated. But the experiment still is subject to review. "I'm not one of the top

Dozen?" brought to my attention how bad the new super conference has played during the non-conference portion of its year. Some of the losses are hard to swallow, but some just choke you until you die (i.e. Arizona State/Nebraska and San Diego State/Oklahoma). In my opinion, the Big 12 built itself up so far that the topple has been far more deadly.

I think that once the teams start pounding on each other during the conference season, we're going to see teams with at least two or three losses overall playing for the conference title on Dec. 7. That's embarrassing. I think next season we need to hang back on the bravado and let our hyping be backed up on the field.

Kenneth Valkner
Omaha, Neb.

Please send your comments and questions to **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (214) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length.

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centers right now. I'm just an average guy trying to work to become one of those guys," Taylor said.

Taylor may see his All-America (and possibly All-Big 12) honors fade as he continues to adjust to the switch. But there has been no grumbling from Taylor, because his move benefits the team.

The same can be said for Maria Hedbeck, who Mike Friend profiles in "Juggling Act (pg. 30)." A two-year starter for the Husker volleyball team, she has seen her starts and minutes diminished somewhat during this, her senior, season. A shoulder injury forced coach Terry Pettit to move Hedbeck from her outside hitting position to the back row last year. From there she earned Big Eight Co-Backcourt Specialist of the Year honors. So it was only natural that she believed she would start and be a key in Nebraska's title defense this year. That came somewhat to fruition as she is still considered a vital piece of their puzzle. But instead of starts, Pettit needs her to contribute more by tutoring younger players and presenting a role for them to copy.

She has done both.

Hopefully other college athletes will follow the examples set by Taylor and Hedbeck.

Chris Greer, Editor

Searching For Treasure

Former Nebraska head coach Bob Devaney set the precedent for the Cornhuskers' strong tradition of recruiting

Ask Bob Devaney why he was so successful in turning Nebraska's football program around, and he will tell you that it's pretty simple: In order to be successful, you've got to have the players and to get the players, you have to recruit. Coach Devaney had a special way of recruiting, and a special way of saying "recruit." He emphasized the "re," so it sounded like "REEcruiting." We were all REEcruits.

The recruiting process we went through was a lot different than it is now. There were no restrictions on the number of visits a recruit could make to different campuses. I remember some high school players filling up their winter and early-spring weekends with recruiting trips. If there had been a frequent flyer program, they would all have been at the "premier" level and probably still would be flying for free with all of the miles they accumulated making recruiting trips.

I heard from a lot of schools, starting as early as my sophomore year in high school, and the recruiting process started to build. Getting a college scholarship, either academic or athletic, was my goal when I started high school, and I was fortunate that it ultimately worked out that way.

My case was a little unusual in that I had family pushing one way early in the process and high school coaches and administrators pushing a different way, as well as each of the prospective college coaches trying to pull me in their directions.

The members of my family were all pretty much convinced that I should go to the Air Force Academy. My dad was, let's say, especially taken with this idea. I passed all the tests for the Academy, took my recruiting trip to Colorado Springs and basically was overwhelmed by the facilities.

Eventually, I received an alternate appointment, so things were set. My family was elated. I wasn't. I just wasn't sure that the military life was what I wanted.



**By
ADRIAN
FIALA**

As time passed, I continued to receive recruiting mail, phone calls and visits from schools in the Big Eight, Big Ten and Notre Dame, as well as from NAIA schools and smaller state colleges. My interest was really centered on Nebraska and Notre Dame, with some interest in Colorado.

Colorado appealed to me because of its location and its engineering school. The mountains were always a favorite of mine growing up, and I had designs on becoming a civil engineer.

When I took my trip to Boulder, however, I wasn't fully prepared for what I encountered.

As usual, a couple of players were assigned to be my hosts. The first



Notre Dame proved to be an easy sell, but Bob Devaney had a way of swaying an athlete's decision.

night, they took me to Tulagi's and The Sink (remember those?), a couple of (shall we say) "clubs" in the heart of Boulder's night life.

For a high school senior from south Omaha, to whom a strong drink was Coca-Cola and a party was a sock hop in the high school gym, those places were a shock to

the system. They were hazy and psychedelic, with spaced-out patrons moving to the sounds of Jefferson Airplane and waiting to "ask Alice" something. I left. My hosts stayed.

The Colorado coaches all were fairly respectable, although when I returned home from the trip, the coach recruiting me, along with head coach Eddie Crowder, called me every night. I didn't like that kind of pressure.

Going to South Bend, Ind., to visit Notre Dame was really exhilarating. From the moment I stepped on campus, the Irish mystique, the legend and lore, grabbed hold of me and didn't let go. I walked into the dimly lit entry of Rockne Hall. Across the way was an illuminated bust of Knute Rockne. It wasn't a shiver that went up and down my spine. Rather, it was more like a tremor. There was a magnificent, smothering silence.

When I came home with a scholarship offer in hand, all of the priests and nuns at my high school, Bishop Ryan, were very excited.

All through the recruiting process, Coach Devaney maintained a presence because of his charisma. He came to see my parents several times. He came to my school and met with my coaches, as well as the priests and nuns. Coach did what he was best at: dealing with people. He called me before I made the Notre Dame trip to reassure me that he really wanted me to come to Nebraska and hoped that I would. He also told me he understood why I was making the trip to Notre Dame and, in fact, encouraged me to make it in order to resolve any doubts I might have had otherwise.

What a boost that was. After that conversation, I had little doubt about where I was going to go. I was impressed with the Irish and would have gone to Notre Dame were it not for Bob Devaney.

It's pretty ironic, really, and I've never told Coach this, but all along, I just wanted to be one of his "REEcruits." I liked the way it sounded. ■



Second Best Only In One Sense

Following the Arizona State game, fans cried for backup quarterback Matt Turman to start. But being a team player, Turman would have none of it

During his weekly news conference on the Tuesday after Nebraska's upset loss against Arizona State, Tom Osborne responded to the shrill critics of junior quarterback Scott Frost.

After analyzing Frost's performance, Osborne concluded, emphatically: "He's the best (quarterback) we've got. That's the bottom line. People can come down on his head all they want. But what else are you going to do? You might as well support the guy. He's the best we've got."

"Believe me, I know that. I may not know much, but I know he's the best we've got."

Osborne is rarely that definite about a starter, or about those behind the starters. In this case, however, his opinion was held strongly. He obviously had grown weary of the criticism directed at Frost.

Matt Turman had grown weary of it, too, which might come as a surprise given the fact that he, more than anyone else, stands to benefit from failure, perceived or otherwise, by Frost.

Based on the depth chart, and other tangible signs, Turman is the next-best quarterback the Cornhuskers have got. With Frost out of the way, he'd be the starter. Yet he has been quick to come to Frost's defense.

"After the Arizona State game, Scott was getting quite a bit of flak," Turman said. "I think that would affect anybody. But Scott knew it was just one game, and the season is made up of 12."

If Turman sounds more like a

coach than a fifth-year senior in college, that's understandable, because he plans to follow his father, Tim, as a football coach. Without a doubt, he'll be a good one.

Turman's coaching qualifications are impeccable. He has a studied football sense that allows him to contribute, even when he's on the sideline. During games, while he waits for an opportunity that he may or may not get, Turman usually stands near junior Monte Christo, another walk-on quarterback whose job it is to chart Nebraska's offensive plays.



By
**MIKE
BABCOCK**



Bob Berry

Turman showed his mettle when he earned his first start against Kansas State two years ago.

"I know what each one is before it's run," Turman said. "I evaluate what Scott (Frost) does and wonder: 'Would I do the same thing he did?' I can help Scott on the sideline. We talk about whether it's the right

stuff. We're always talking (during games)."

Turman seems to have the rare quality of being able to accept criticism in the spirit in which it is given, rather than taking it personally. Instead of being discouraged, he is motivated to improve.

There isn't a more determined Cornhusker. "That has to do with mentality," Turman said. "I've always been a competitor. Knowing that at a minute's notice you can become the guy, if you're not a competitor, you're not going to be ready, and the whole atmosphere at Nebraska will be too much to handle."

Turman proved two years ago that he was prepared to seize an opportunity at a moment's notice. With Tommie Frazier sidelined by blood clots and Brook Berringer suffering from a partially collapsed lung, Turman became the Huskers' quarterback for the second half of the Oklahoma State game.

Nebraska, which led, 9-3, at halftime, went on to win, 32-3.

Turman wasn't done, however. The next week he started at Kansas State, playing all of the first half, except the last series, and giving the Cornhuskers' a 7-6 lead that proved to be all they needed in a 17-6 victory.

People still remind Turman of the 1994 Kansas State game, and he said his feelings are mixed. He doesn't want to dwell on the past.

"I'm a different quarterback, a different person now," he said. "In another sense, though, I don't get tired of (hearing about) it because that was the highlight of my career, so far."

"The Kansas State game was special to me. It helped us win a nation-

"It's the coach's decision, not what the general

al championship. If I hadn't been here, maybe we wouldn't have won it. It'll always have a special place in my heart."

In many ways, Turman's support of Frost is a reflection of Berringer's support of Turman. As he did with so many people, Berringer, a friend as well as a roommate, had a profound effect on Turman.

"His whole attitude, his presence ... I have to thank him for those things," Turman said.

Prior to the Kansas State game two years ago, "Brook did a great job of keeping me calm," he said. "I wasn't nervous the night before the game, but during the week leading up to it, I was."

Turman saved a program from the game. The most meaningful souvenir, however, is a photograph of offensive linemen Zach Wiegert, Brenden Stai, Rob Zatechka, Joel Wilks and Aaron Graham, the first 'Pipeline.' They're all standing there, looking like they're seven feet tall and weigh 400 pounds each, and I'm standing in front of them," said the 5-foot-11, 185-pound Turman. "I don't know who took it or where it came from. But it's a neat picture. It's a reminder of all the obstacles I've had to overcome."

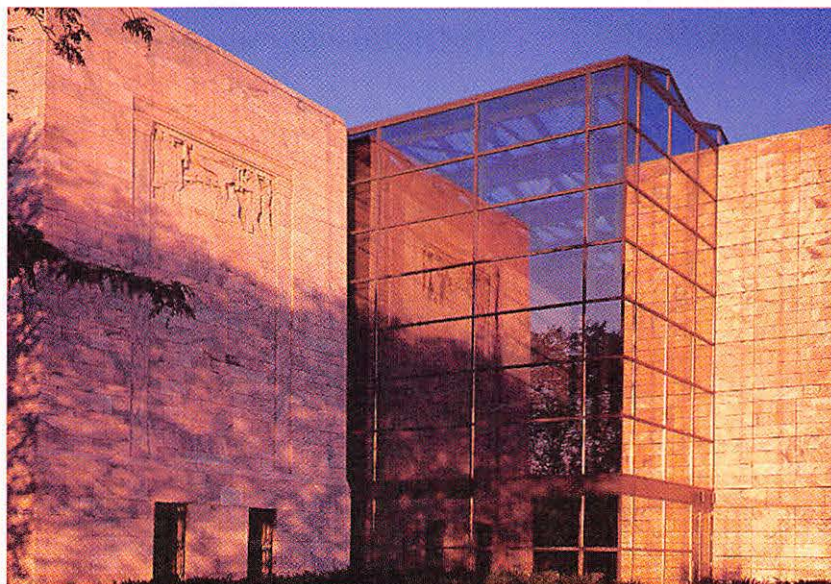
The Kansas State defenders tried to intimidate the sophomore walk-on who was starting for the first time. "They were telling me they were going to break my head open, stuff like that," Turman said. "I thought: 'Well, go ahead and try.' It was hard to get intimidated with that line."

There is a lesson in Turman's words, one which can be applied to this season. Offensive success doesn't depend only on the quarterback. You succeed as a team, or fail as a team.

When Osborne described Frost as the best quarterback Nebraska had, Turman didn't complain or back off. He continued to prepare just as hard as he always had, if not harder. He has never lost belief in himself. He accepted Osborne's judgment without allowing it to affect his confidence.

When people come up to him and tell him he should be starting, "it's nice," Turman said. "Anybody would be encouraged by that. But it's the coach's decision, not what the general public expects." ■

public expects."



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Cashing In On The Crop

With all the big bucks being generated by the Big 12, maybe it's time to look at giving players a cut

In 1971, the Big Eight was the best football conference in the country, beyond a shadow of a doubt. Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado finished an unprecedented first, second and third in the *Associated Press* national rankings. Nebraska beat Oklahoma in the "Game of the Century," which was the Sooners' only loss, in the conference or out of it. Colorado's only losses were to Oklahoma and Nebraska. And we (I was a Cornhusker junior in 1971) didn't lose to anyone.

We ended our season by beating then-No. 2 ranked Alabama in the Orange Bowl to win our second consecutive national championship. Coach Bob Devaney lost the national Coach of the Year award to Bear Bryant of Alabama, even though we were national champs and had beaten Alabama. Those were the breaks in the good old days.

Now, 25 years later, I'm excited to see 12 prestigious athletic programs assembled to create what may be the best football conference in the country... and for sure, the richest.

Being a broadcast journalism and advertising major at the university, I understand market share and television rating points. And I'm impressed with the athletic directors and chief executive officers of the former Southwest Conference and those of the former Big Eight for realizing the power of the electronic media. Although the Huskers are back-to-back national champions, still going for a possible "3-PEAT," we don't have enough people in the state to even appear in the Nielson television ratings. With the Big Eight viewers from any other team plus those in Nebraska and a few other interested conference viewers, I could see Nebraska getting maybe a two-percent rating, which is negligible.

With the addition of all the viewers of the four Texas teams, our new

conference can command about 18 percent of the nation's TV viewers on any given Saturday.

The Big 12 was formed mainly because the Southwest Conference and the Big Eight couldn't generate enough revenue to make it work alone. The new conference offers a chance for Nebraska to be a part of a more powerful conference and create bigger bucks for everybody.

Before one game was played, the Big 12 Conference signed an eight-year, \$126 million contract with ABC and the Fox Sports Network. This is the biggest football deal ever for any conference. This year, 1996-97, the Big 12 will gross nearly \$50 million. Last year, the Southwest Conference earned

national title, we would be the best football team in the polls, playing in the biggest revenue-bearing conference in the country.

Television viewers want to see a team that has 34 consecutive winning seasons, 27 consecutive seasons with at least nine wins and 27 straight bowl bids. The Big 12 brings us TV viewers, which, in turn, represents ratings and equates to the big bucks. Our players, as well as the rest of the players in the Big 12, will get a bigger market share of viewers, thereby getting more visibility and name recognition, which equates to bigger and better contracts in the NFL and Canadian Football League. In addition, this gives universities more funds to support women's athletics. These programs don't bring in much money but are very important to the future, allowing more females to get their education paid for by athletic scholarships.

I think that the Big 12 will go into the 21st Century as the biggest, best, most valuable, most-viewed conference in the history of college athletics. But with all the new-found wealth it is generating, it only makes sense to start thinking about the people who make it possible — the athletes.

How long are we going to continue to accept a system that wants to trade a possible education for the hard work that goes into a college football season? Think if those were your children who were playing football for no pay, who were competing and performing for no fees.

New rules came in with the new conference. New dollars came in with cable television and new networks. I believe that the Big 12 is a great concept, but not necessarily for the young athletes who are trying to get a college education with no monetary support.

Most college athletes don't become professionals. Regardless of that fact, all team members will work hard and none will receive pay for performances that are producing up to \$1 million a game. Think about it. ■



By
**JOHNNY
RODGERS**



Big 12 games bring in not only substantially more money than the two former conferences combined, but more viewers.

\$22 million in gross income, while the Big Eight made \$26 million.

Nebraska was the best team in the nation when I was playing in 1970 and 1971, and it returned to the top in 1994 and 1995. Unfortunately, we were never the biggest as far as dollars went. Now, if we could manage to come in the back door, like we did in 1970, and somehow win a third



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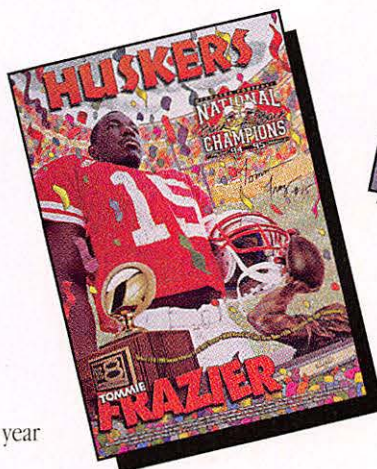
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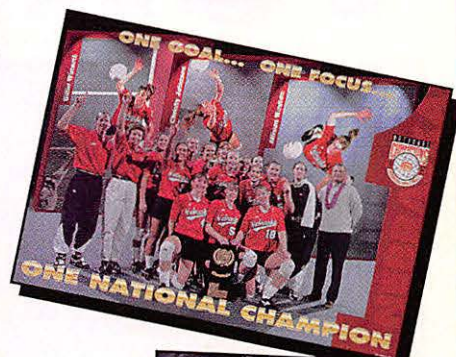
Videos highlighting the Nebraska volleyball and football national championship seasons, as well as the bowl trip again are available as produced by HuskerVision. This is the only video that gets you into the locker room for pre and

postgame speeches. Last year's season highlight tape and national championship videos for football are also available. All videos cost \$20 each.



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National championship posters were produced commemorating both the football and volleyball championship seasons. The official championship poster produced by the Husker Athletic Department, is the only one featuring game action photos of the Husker stars. The 1995 national championship poster costs \$10 and one free 1994 national championship poster will be mailed at no charge with every poster order. You can also obtain an original Tommie Frazier poster commemorating the former outstanding Husker quarterback and 1995 senior. The Tommie Frazier and championship volleyball poster cost \$10 each.



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Car window stickers and stickers for notebooks and non-weathered materials are available for each championship team. The logo commemorating each championship season is also available as a collar/hat pin.

Approximate size of both stickers is 5" x 3 1/2", while the pins are approximately 1" x 1". Stickers are \$1 each, pins are \$5.

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Texan Two-S



Bob Berry

If things had worked out the way Aaron Taylor expected when he was a senior at Rider High School in Wichita Falls, Texas, he'd be in Texas Tech's offensive line when Nebraska plays the Red Raiders at Lubbock on Saturday. Not that the Cornhuskers' junior center would change anything now.

"I just want to prove I was worthy of playing for them," he said.

Taylor made a recruiting trip to Texas Tech in December of his senior year. He was excited, and eager to please Tech coach Spike Dykes. Tech, after all, was the only major college in Texas interested enough to invite him for a visit. And he was determined to play in the Southwest

Conference.

High school football thrives in the vast expanse that is Texas. It is a passion. The rosters of the nation's top NCAA Division I-A programs, from coast to coast and border to border, invariably include a Texan or two.

In recent years, many of the state's best high school football players have gone elsewhere to college. But Taylor wanted to stay. Even though he spent seven of his pre-high school years living on United States military bases in Germany, he had developed an affection for the football programs in Texas.

"I didn't get to see a lot of college football games, but when we did get to watch, I rooted for the Texas schools," he said. "When you're in

the military, you've got to root for your home state."

Taylor, who has lived in San Antonio as well as in Wichita Falls, eventually began rooting for Texas A&M, in particular, "because I had friends who lived in College Station." If he'd had his 'druthers, he would have gone to Texas A&M.

But Texas A&M wasn't interested, even though he was rated by recruiting analysts as one of the top high school linemen in the state. Texas wasn't interested, and neither was Baylor, Houston, Rice, Southern Methodist or Texas Christian. Taylor's high school coach, Wayne LeBleu, was so angry about the TCU coaches' rejection of Taylor he told them: "Now I know why your pro-

tep

Aaron Taylor always wanted to play for a Texas school. But when Texas Tech turned him down, he took his "undersized" potential to Nebraska. Now he comes home as an All-America candidate

• by Mike Babcock

gram is where it's at."

Taylor didn't begin playing organized football until the ninth grade, after returning from Germany, where "football" meant soccer. As a result, he started at a basic level.

But he was big (220 pounds as a ninth-grader) and agile. And he learned quickly. By his sophomore season, Taylor was starting in the offensive line for a Rider High varsity that included Cornhusker teammate Scott Saltsman, who was a year ahead of Taylor in school.

Taylor wasn't shunned by the Southwest Conference schools because of his skills. Rather, at 6-foot-1, they apparently considered him to be too short for a major college offensive lineman.

No one mentioned his height, however. So Taylor couldn't understand why he never got more than a standardized recruiting questionnaire from any Texas school except Tech — oh yes, and SMU. He was invited to visit SMU but after scheduling the visit, "they didn't call me back," he said.

Even though Texas Tech wouldn't have been his first choice, or even his second, among the Southwest Conference schools, "it stayed with me to the end," said Taylor. The end was his visit.

Two weeks after his trip to Lubbock, he still hadn't gotten a follow-up call, which would have seemed common courtesy even if the Red Raiders had decided not to offer him a scholarship. "My high school coach wanted to know if they had contacted me, just to stay in touch, wish me a Merry Christmas or whatever," Taylor said. "I told him they hadn't. So he called their recruiting coordinator.

"He (the recruiting coordinator) said he was interested in me but that Coach Dykes was skeptical because of my height. At least then I knew the reason they weren't calling back."

Taylor wasn't without options, however. Nebraska and New Mexico State had continued to recruit him and he was scheduled to visit Nebraska in January. He didn't

know much about the Cornhuskers, except that they played in New Year's Day bowl games every season. He also knew that Saltsman liked it in Lincoln. And he quickly found out why. "The coaches here were great," he said.

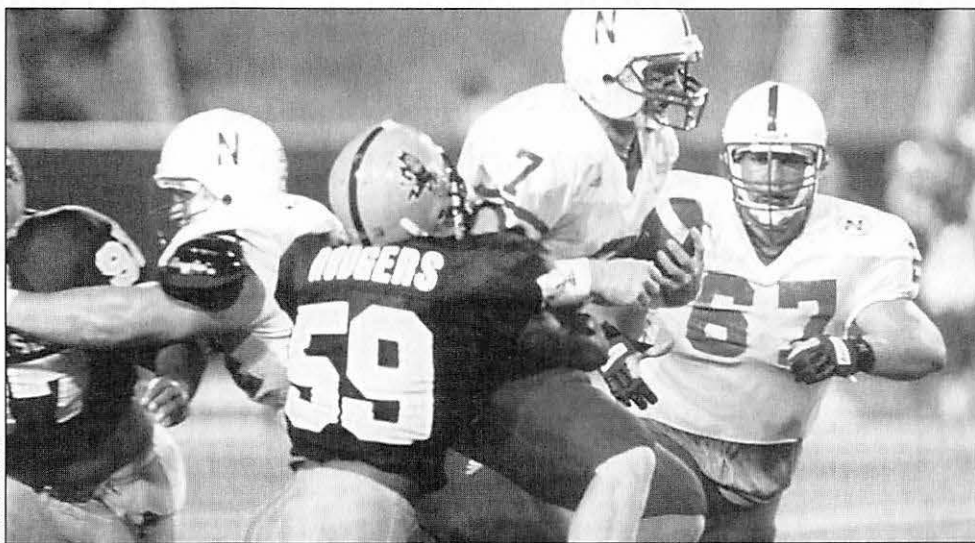
Offensive line coach Milt Tenopir "laid everything out for me," said Taylor. Tenopir told him that whether or not he succeeded would depend on how hard he was willing to work. He was promised a scholarship and an opportunity, nothing more. The rest would be up to him.

"Coach Tenopir told me that my height didn't bother him," Taylor said.

turned to Matt Vrzal (a 6-foot-1 center and guard) and said: "I can't play at a school like that. Their linemen were in a pass-pro formation, back on their heels all the time. They could never fire out. As an offensive lineman, you want to do that.

Taylor led Nebraska in knock-down, or "pancake," blocks last season, with 128.

Even though he had to wait, red-shirting his first season then playing enough as a backup and on special teams to earn a letter his second, Taylor emerged sooner than most Cornhusker offensive linemen. He started every game at guard last season and earned first-team All-Big



It hasn't been an easy transition from guard (where he earned All-Big Eight honors last season) to center for Taylor (67).

There was a time when it might have. But Nebraska's concern is recruiting "big guys who can move. We've never been a big stickler about how tall a guy is. We'll have middle guys who are 6-foot-2, 6-foot-1, 6-foot. They aren't in appearance what you'd draw up as an offensive lineman," said Tenopir.

Nebraska's run-oriented, option offense also appealed to Taylor's aggressiveness. During the Cornhuskers' 62-24 victory against Florida in the Fiesta Bowl, Taylor

recognition.

If he continues to play at an all-conference level, Taylor could become only the fourth Nebraska lineman since 1950 to earn first-team honors in three consecutive seasons. The names of the other three should be familiar. They were consensus All-Americans and accounted for four of Nebraska's seven Outland Trophies: Will Shields, Zach Wiegert and Dave Rimington, who earned two Outlands.

His drive to perfection makes him a harsh critic. "I'm not one of the top centers right now. I'm just an average guy trying to work to become one of those great guys," he said. ■

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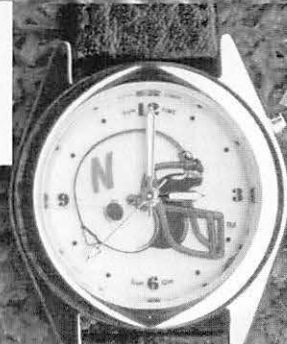
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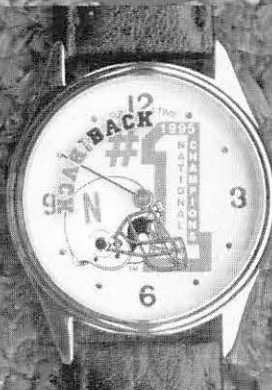
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SCOUTING



By Mark Derowitsch

Sure, Texas Tech dropped its season-opening football game at Kansas State, and yes, the Red Raiders dropped another game early in the year, at Georgia. And it just may be difficult for Texas Tech to rebound and win the South Division of the Big 12 Conference and play in the league's championship game at the end of the regular season.

Even so, don't expect to see the Red Raiders try to do anything but win football games.

In other words, don't think for a minute that Tech head coach Spike Dykes or the Texas Tech athletic department will mount a huge Heisman Trophy campaign in honor of running back Byron Hanspard.

"I think you could send everybody a Rolex watch with a face of the person on there," Dykes said of such campaigns. "If you have to do that to win the prize, I don't think Byron would want it. That's the kind of guy he is."

Sure, Hanspard's statistics certainly are Heisman-caliber numbers. In the first five games of the season, he has rushed for 1,112 yards (an average of 222.4 per game), scored nine touchdowns and is averaging 7.7 yards every time he touches the football out of the Red Raider backfield.

One thing is certain: Dykes won't try to pad Hanspard's numbers in a blowout.

"If we are ahead, 65-0, we are not going to have a running back in the ballgame running the ball trying to make yards," Dykes said of the

notion of leaving starters in late to pad statistics. "We just don't believe that way."

Another certainty is that the Red Raiders won't have to worry about that scenario when they play host to Nebraska on Oct. 19 for a Big 12 matchup in Lubbock, Texas.

Besides, Dykes doesn't have time to worry about Heisman Trophy races. After a 4-2 start by the Red Raiders, he's still worried about winning games.

"Most teams are trying to win. They are not trying to feature anything," Dykes said. "That's the thing people get caught up in. We were talking about this stuff to our team

Heisman talk has not kept running back Byron Hanspard from averaging over 200 yards per game this season.



Texas Tech Sports Information

PRESS PICKS

• Mike Babcock, *Huskers Illustrated*

Texas Tech has an experienced quarterback, an outstanding running back, a run-oriented offense and a quotable head coach. That combination should make for an interesting Saturday afternoon in Lubbock, home of the late, great Buddy Holly, which is one of the less-discussed positives in the formation of the Big 12 Conference. Anyway, the Red Raiders probably will hold with the Huskers for the better part of three quarters before wearing down.

Nebraska 31, Texas Tech 7.

• Todd Henrichs, *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*

Lubbock looks like another "hot spot" for Nebraska. Like Arizona State and Kansas State, the Red Raiders should have the support of a noisy home crowd, and have just enough talented players to make the Huskers nervous.

Nebraska 30, Texas Tech 17.

• Kyle Svec, *Hastings Tribune*

Nebraska must guard against another Arizona State. The Red Raiders will be gunning for the Huskers, and may have the athletes to pull off the upset. Texas Tech may be the best the Big 12-South has to offer. It will be another test for the Nebraska defense. Look for a close game.

Nebraska 24, Texas Tech 16.

• Scott Franzke, *Prime Radio Sports*

So what if their winning streak is over? Nebraska remains among college football's three or four best teams. Tech isn't even third or fourth in the Big 12.

Nebraska 38, Texas Tech 17.

the other day. Heisman Trophy talk, that kind of stuff, you start thinking about that kind of stuff, you lose the insight of what you are playing the game for to start with."

Hanspard isn't the only weapon in the Red Raiders' arsenal, either. His backup, Adrian Ervin, is second on the team in rushing with 193 yards through five games. Fullback Sammy Morris, a redshirt freshman, has gained 167 yards in only 17 carries this season.

Quarterback Zebbie Lethridge also is a big-play threat. The junior from Lubbock is third on the team in rushing, with 178 yards, and has thrown for 641 yards and five touchdowns in the first five games of the season.

When Lethridge goes to the air, his favorite receiver is Hanspard, who leads the team with 10 receptions for 114 yards. Split end Sheldon Bass has seven catches, while flanker Field Scovell has six receptions.

Thanks to Lethridge, the Red Raiders usually are ready to roll right from the opening kickoff of the game. Dykes said such a trend has given his team a boost.

"The offense continues to do some things you like to do," he said. "They start the game off nearly every ball game with a drive that is a good, productive drive for points. That sort of sets the tone for the day. It really does. That's everybody's goal, and it's really hard to achieve. This team has done it extremely well."

The Red Raider line has been through the battles before, and the



Texas Tech Sports Information

Quarterback Zebbie Lethridge opens up the Tech offense with his ability to run and throw.

experience has shown this season, as the team is averaging 465.6 yards of total offense per contest. Three seniors, all returning starters, make up the bulk of the line. Center Kevin Ward started last year, left guard Casey Jones and right tackle Ben Kaufman are both seniors with two and three letters, respectively.

Junior Chris Whitney and senior Lynn Scherler are at right tackle, while senior Shane Dunn starts the right guard spot.

Defensively, Texas Tech is stingy against the run, giving up only 83.6 yards on the ground per game.

Ends Montae Reagor and Tony Daniels are part of the reason why the Red Raiders are so strong up front.

"Those bookend ends both are improving their play," Dykes said.

Tackles Corey Chandler and Cody McGuire make up the rest of the starting lineup on the defensive line.

Texas Tech has three talented linebackers in Robert Johnson, Anthony Armour and Eric Butler. Johnson leads the team in tackles with 49 from his position at strong-side linebacker, and he has also picked off two passes. Armour, at weakside linebacker, has 42 stops while Butler has 33 tackles, including four for loss.

The secondary may be the Red Raiders' weakest area, although the team intercepted eight passes in five games. But Texas Tech is giving up 236.2 passing yards per game, which has Dykes worried.

"We are a little bit porous on pass defense," he said. "We've made some mistakes in the pass defense area that we need to correct. This is an area of major concern."

Cornerbacks Tony Darden and Corey Turner have picked off two passes apiece this season.

Rover Jody Brown and free safety Dane Johnson make up the rest of the Red Raider secondary.

The Red Raiders have solid special teams play.

Kicker Jaret Greaser has made 7-of-10 field goal attempts, including a long of 53 yards. Punter Jeremy Hernandez is averaging 46.2 yards per attempt.

Nebraska is no stranger to Texas Tech. The two teams met in both the 1993 and 1994 seasons, with the Huskers winning both times. ■

NEBRASKA VS. TEXAS TECH TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	63	James Sherman	6-2	300	Fr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
or	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	250	So
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	14	Lance Brown	5-11	190	So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	So

RED RAIDER DEFENSE

LE	34	Montae Reagor	6-2	249	So
	89	Taurus Rucker	6-0	244	Fr
DT	56	John Abendschan	6-2	272	Sr
	93	Corey Chandler	6-5	258	Jr
NT	74	Cody McGuire	6-5	276	Jr
	71	Terry Patton	6-1	285	Fr
RE	86	Tony Daniels	6-5	249	Jr
	46	Keith Cumby	5-10	209	So
SLB	7	Robert Johnson	5-11	194	Sr
	29	Ty Ardoin	6-0	185	So
MLB	48	Eric Butler	6-1	251	Jr
	83	Kyle Shipley	6-3	232	Fr
WLB	45	Ryan Donahue	6-2	236	Sr
	5	Kevin McCullar	6-3	205	Fr
ROV	30	Jody Brown	6-0	200	Sr
	36	Robby Cartwright	6-1	193	So
RC	21	Corey Turner	5-9	171	So
	39	Mike Benefield	5-10	175	So
LC	11	Tony Darden	6-0	196	Jr
	3	Darwin Brown	5-11	163	Fr
FS	13	Dane Johnson	5-11	195	Jr
	1	Duane Price	5-11	165	Jr
P	14	Jeremy Hernandez	5-11	190	So

RED RAIDER OFFENSE

SE	17	Malcolm McKenzie	6-2	211	Jr
	18	Sheldon Bass	5-10	192	So
LT	75	Ben Kaufman	6-5	277	Sr
	72	Nick Lee	6-7	321	So
LG	66	Chris Whitney	6-3	278	Jr
	78	J.T. Sprouse	6-2	286	Sr
C	63	Jay Pugh	6-3	287	Jr
	57	Kevin Ward	6-1	270	Sr
RG	68	Shane Dunn	6-3	295	Sr
	77	Erik Carruth	6-4	284	So
RT	67	Lynn Scherler	6-5	285	Sr
	62	Justin Collingsworth	6-5	288	So
TE	84	Kyle Allamon	6-3	247	Fr
	85	Brad Spinks	6-4	235	Sr
FL	87	Field Scovell	5-11	189	Sr
	6	Stacy Mitchell	5-5	150	Jr
QB	8	Zebbie Lethridge	6-0	192	Jr
	15	Sone Cavazos	6-1	208	Sr
FB	43	Ryan Jones	6-2	229	Sr
	42	Sammy Morris	6-0	212	Fr
IB	4	Byron Hanspard	6-0	193	Jr
	22	Adrian Ervin	6-0	204	Sr
PK	97	Jaret Greaser	6-0	180	So

HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	6-0	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-1	205	Sr
	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Sr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Oct. 13, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

I-Backs Run Wild Against Baylor

Sorry, wrong number. The telephone on the wall to Tom Osborne's right, near the door to the interview room, rang as Osborne began his interview following Saturday's 49-0 victory against Baylor.

Osborne seemed oblivious to the annoying rings, which continued until Shot Kleen, chief engineer for Memorial Stadium's HuskerVision screens, lifted the phone off the hook and answered.

Though this is only speculation, and not very reasonable speculation at that, the caller might have been another football coach, wanting to know if Osborne had a running back he could spare.

By MIKE BABCOCK

Could he share the wealth, so to speak? Hey, you were warned about this speculation being highly unlikely. But the phone did ring. Kleen did answer it. And Osborne's

Cornhuskers do have an abundance of quality running backs, any one of whom most other teams would covet.

That was apparent once again, as two of them rushed for more than 100 yards. And neither of the two was Nebraska's No. 1 I-back, Ahman Green, who was hobbled by a turf toe injury.

"Ahman might have been able to play in a pinch," Osborne said.

But there was no pinch, on a 75-degree, Homecoming afternoon, which included a halftime performance of the university's new alma mater, a gift from composer Chip Davis,

president of American Gramophone and a conductor of (as well as a musician with) Mannheim Steamroller.

While Green watched from the sideline, the Cornhuskers steamrolled a Baylor defense that ranked No. 98 nationally against the run. I-backs Damon Benning and DeAngelo Evans did a number on the Bears. Benning, who was picked to start in Green's place on Thursday, ran for 135 yards and three touchdowns, on 22 carries. Evans contributed 105 yards and two touchdowns, on only 12 carries.

Baylor's defense, which had allowed an average of 227.3 rushing yards per game, really dialed up a wrong number this time. Nebraska ran over, around and through the Bears for a season-high 491 yards. "We knew it was going to be up to the running game today," center Aaron Taylor said.

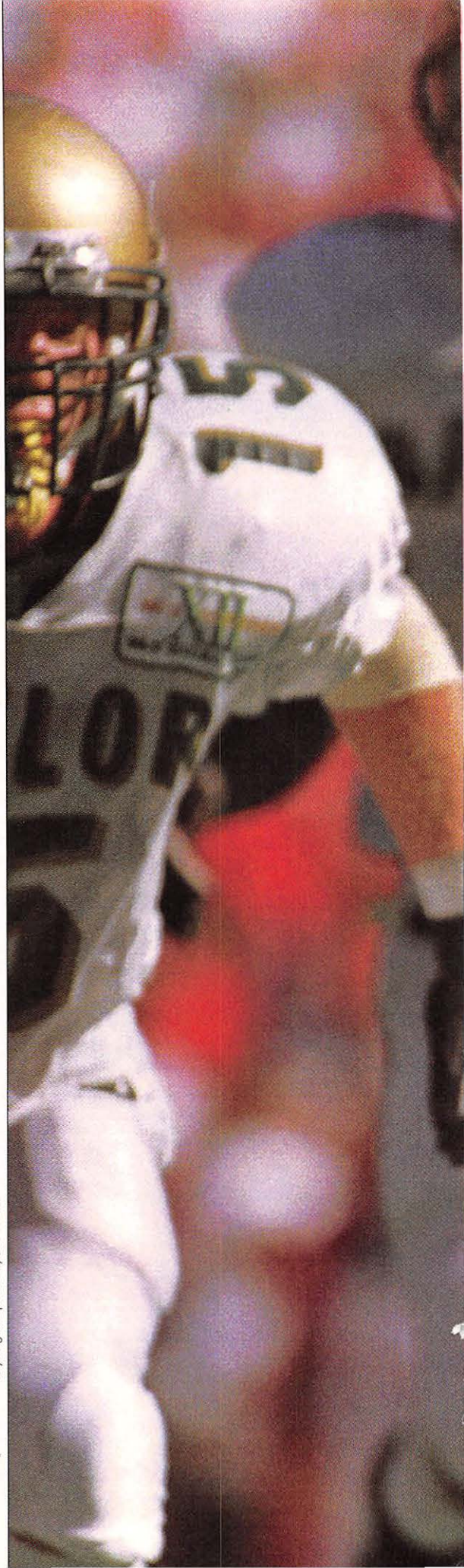
That was apparent on the game's opening series as the Cornhuskers held the ball for 13 plays and nearly five and a half minutes before stalling at the Baylor 32-yard line. A holding penalty, which negated a pass play that carried to the Baylor 1, contributed to the stall. Kris Brown, who kicked four field goals in the 39-3 victory against Kansas State, then missed on a 49-yard attempt, into a south wind.

"The first series, it was kind of disappointing," said Taylor.

The second series wasn't, however. Nebraska drove 81 yards in 11 plays to score the first of its

Behind Damon Benning, Nebraska ran over, around and through Baylor for a season-high 491 yards.

Baylor game photos by Jon Waller





seven touchdowns and further declare its intention to run over Baylor. A definite pattern had been established by the end of a 7-0 first quarter. "We were out there the whole first quarter," Taylor said.

That wasn't quite accurate. But it was close. Nebraska's time of possession was 11:18.

The Cornhuskers controlled the line of scrimmage on defense as well, overwhelming a Baylor offense that was without its No. 1 quarterback, Jeff Watson, and its No. 1 tailback, Jerod Douglas, both of whom were injured. "Let's face the facts; Baylor was not full-strength," said Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride, who was trying, unsuccessfully, to stop a game-long nosebleed.

Baylor went three-downs-and-punt on its first four possessions, and managed only two first downs in the first half, both on the same play: one on a 13-yard run, the other on a facemask penalty.

The Bears didn't fare much better in the second half, even after McBride began sending in reserves. They finished with 117 total yards, including a net of 32 rushing (on 34 attempts).

Baylor's Ty Atteberry had to have been leg-weary, averaging 48.4 yards on nine punts.

"I was a little surprised at the way we were able to stop them on defense," Osborne said. "I thought they had a good offensive team ... not a great offensive team, but a good offensive team. Probably the strongest part of their football team was their offense. So that's pretty gratifying."

Outside linebackers

Jamel Williams and Terrell Farley were, as usual, relentless. Williams was credited with eight tackles and one quarterback sack. Farley made seven tackles, two of which produced losses totaling 11 yards. On one of those two, late in the first half, Farley appeared to grab Baylor quarterback Jermaine Alfred at the exact instant that Alfred got the center's snap.

To their credit, the Bears didn't give up. "Last week (at Kansas State), the first series, we knew right away there was doubt in their minds, maybe a little fear,"

Nebraska defensive tackle Jeff Ogard said. "These guys kept fighting. They didn't quit. What are they, 4-1? They can't afford to give up."

Actually, Baylor left Memorial Stadium with a 3-2 record. But the South Division of the Big 12 seems to be in such disarray right now that the Bears could hardly be counted out.

In contrast to the offense, the Baylor defense "just seemed to give up," Taylor said, adding a qualifier to that. "The interior guys, I'm trying to say. They were on the field a lot. They got tired."

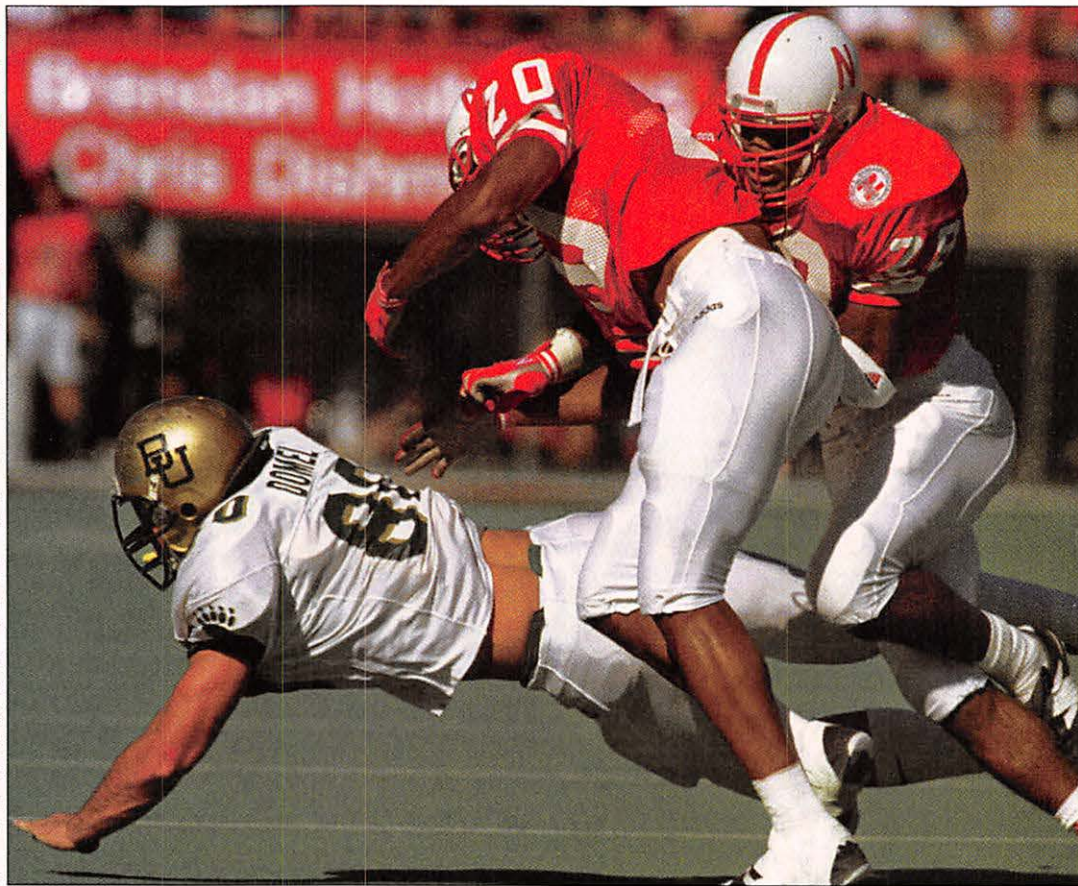
Nebraska averaged 7.6 yards per rush, meaning there was no need for more than an occasional pass, just to make sure the defense didn't bunch

It was pretty good, anyway. "I thought I threw the ball better," said Frost.

The play of the I-backs was probably the most notable part of the offensive performance. Benning and Evans showed how deep Nebraska is at that all-important position. "DeAngelo proved himself last week. Damon has proved himself over the years. And Ahman is Ahman," Dishman said.

Green also remains No. 1, and should be able to play at Texas Tech on Saturday. Nebraska's policy is, a starter doesn't lose his job because of an injury. And Green wouldn't be demoted, anyway.

"Ahman hasn't had the stats, but he's had some strong, strong runs,"



With its two offensive stars (Douglas and Watson) injured, Baylor could never get anything going against the Black Shirts.

up too much at the line of scrimmage. Quarterback Scott Frost, who rushed for 90 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries, completed 8-of-15 passes for 178 yards.

At least three of his passes were dropped and a fourth was spiked to stop the clock. "If we would have caught all the balls he threw, he would have had a pretty good day," Osborne said.

said Frank Solich, the Cornhuskers' assistant head coach and running backs coach. "He'll be the starter."

A week ago in Manhattan, Kan., with Green on the sideline with the turf toe problem and Benning at home with the groin pull, Evans rushed for 168 yards and two touchdowns. With everyone healthy, he'll share second team with Benning, and be the third I-back listed on the depth chart once again.

"It's a little bit of a tough go. Ahman's going to get the snaps of the first-team guy. After that, there aren't a lot of snaps to split up

(between Benning and Evans)," Solich said.

Both Benning and Evans seemed willing to accept whatever roles they're asked to play. "I was really uneasy before the game," said Benning. "It didn't seem like me. I didn't know if my coming back would interrupt continuity or what. I just took a deep breath, relaxed and focused myself."

Just as he did after the Kansas State game, Evans credited the offensive line for the rushing success before discussing his own situation. "To have two backs over 100 yards speaks well for the blocking," he said. "We blew them off the ball from the start. I knew it would be a great day offensively."

Evans was among the last players to visit the interview room. He was followed, single-file, by a small parade of reporters. "We've been fortunate in the quality of running backs we've got," Solich said. "With all the publicity they get in high school, people know about them and their reputations. They attract a certain amount of followers, which is fine. The fans always enjoy seeing the young backs."

Nebraska also has been fortunate that its quality running backs have been team-oriented.

"It only takes one guy to upset things. Then it's hard to coach them," said Solich.

"I don't know that you can really tell that a kid will be team-oriented when you recruit him. You can get a feel, by talking to his high school coach. But you don't know for sure. You never know until you get caught up in these situations. What's important to these guys is winning. For the most part, they try to help one another. They encourage one another. And I think those feelings are genuine with this group."

"If you give Ahman the ball 35 times a game, he's going to have stats as good as anybody in the country. With Damon and DeAngelo, it would be the same. But they're willing to take less snaps."

And then, of course, there is Jay Sims, the fourth I-back.

"I'll take this problem any day," Solich said.

You're still not ready to accept that theory about the phone call in the interview room, are you? It makes for a good story, though. It could happen. Still not ready to suspend your disbelief?

Then how about this: Boy, did Baylor ever get a wrong number. ■

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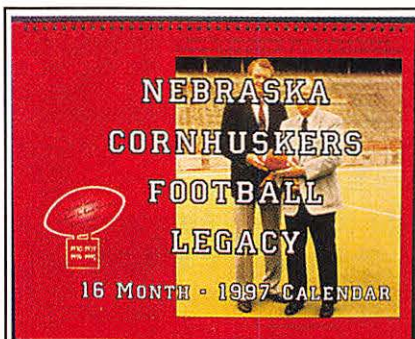
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OVERVIEW

Baby Boomers

Reserve freshmen play significant roles in preserving the shutout

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

The fourth quarter of Nebraska's 49-0 victory against Baylor provided the crowd of 75,478 at Memorial Stadium with a preview of coming attractions.

Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride liked what he saw. "I was pleased with the younger guys," he said after they helped to preserve Nebraska's first shutout of the season.

Often when young back-ups get to play, shutouts are lost, which isn't surprising.

"It seems like the whole world's in a daze," senior defensive tackle Jeff Ogard said, recalling his early experiences at Memorial Stadium. "It's something to go out in front of 76,000 people. The young guys are always ready to get in there. They might not know the correct defenses, but the coaches tell them just to give a good effort. It's an exciting thing to get a chance to play. It's a learning experience."

At the risk of omitting someone who deserved mention, several young defenders caught McBride's attention, including tackles Derek Allen (6-3, 270) and Steve Warren (6-3, 290), strongside linebackers Brian Shaw (6-0, 215) and Tony Ortiz (6-0, 210) and middle linebacker Julius Jackson (6-0, 225).

Allen, Shaw, Ortiz and Jackson are redshirted freshman. Warren is a true freshman.

Between them, those five were involved in four of Nebraska's seven quarterback sacks, and they played significant roles in the preservation of the shutout, which easily could have been lost.

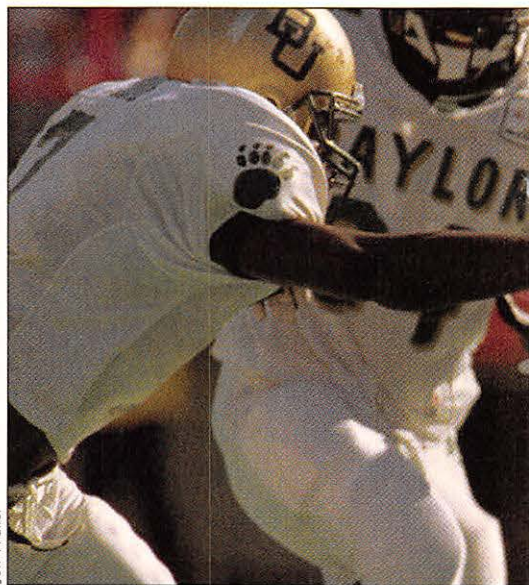
Baylor threatened twice in the fourth quarter. The first time, the Bears drove 53 yards on 13 plays to the Nebraska 27-yard line before stalling and attempting a 44-yard field goal. Kyle Atteberry's kick failed. "I would have been disappointed if they had scored, even a field goal," McBride said.

The Bears had a first-and-10 at the Nebraska 29-yard line. But they managed only a 2-yard pass completion on first down. Two incomplete passes followed, leaving them fourth-and-8.

The second threat came less than two minutes later, after the Cornhuskers' only punt of the game was blocked, giving Baylor possession at the Nebraska 38-yard line with 4:04 remaining.

On first down, Bears quarterback Jermaine Alfred was sacked for a 6-yard loss by Ortiz.

On second down, Alfred was



DeAngelo Evans' young legs carried him to 105 yards and two touchdowns.

sacked for an 8-yard loss by Allen.

After a timeout, Alfred threw an incomplete pass, and Ty Atteberry punted.

"Shutouts are really great," said Ogard. The Cornhuskers posted two last season, against Oklahoma (37-0) and Missouri (57-0). They would have had a second this season but for a 51-yard field goal, set up by an interception and personal foul penalty, early in the second quarter of the Kansas State game.

Jon Weller

Nebraska hasn't allowed a touch-down since the second quarter of the Colorado State game, and the Cornhuskers have allowed only four touchdowns all season, two of them to Michigan State.

If Baylor had scored against the reserves, it wouldn't have mattered too much, according to Ogard. "When I was a young player, the older guys would say: 'Keep that shutout.' You're out there trying to preserve it, so they wouldn't go too hard on you. They'd probably just razz you," he said.

Allen, who is from Russellville, Ark., also drew mention from Osborne.

"Derek kind of caught my eye for a young guy," Osborne said.

Developing depth at defensive tackle has been a priority. Ogard, junior Jason Peter and senior Scott Saltsman are the only experienced players at the position, with sophomore Jason Wiltz (6-3, 285) also beginning to show signs of being able to contribute. "He's impressed the coaches, I think, and me, too,"



said Ogard. "These last few games, we're getting some depth. That's really a positive thing."

McBride, of course, agreed. Obviously, it's a case of the more the merrier. "The more depth you have, the stronger you're going to be when it gets down to the wire," he said.

Ogard said he didn't mind sharing time with the younger players.

"If they get in there, we must be up quite a bit, so we're doing all right," he said.

Senior weakside linebacker Terrell Farley might have been less forgiving if the reserves had allowed Baylor to score and spoil the

shutout. He was still a little upset that Kansas State scored three points the week before. "We should have gotten one (shutout) last weekend," he said.

"Down the road we'll try to get a couple more."

Farley holds the defense to an extremely high standard.

"I'm not satisfied," he said of Saturday's performance. "I'm satisfied with some parts. We played a good game again, but we need to improve. We need to concentrate on stopping the run and the pass, too. It's mental things we need to work

on. We missed some plays and some tackles."

Obviously not very often, though. "Defensively, they are probably as good as anybody that we have been on the field against. They have great players at every position," Baylor Coach Chuck Reedy said.

And, as the fourth quarter showed, some potentially great players for the future.

"They've still got a long way to go. Quote me on that," McBride said. "I don't want them to think they're doing too much or they'll want to be starting." ■

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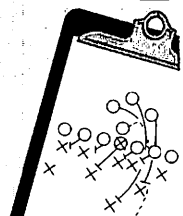


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STATISTICS VS. BAYLOR

OCTOBER 12, 1996

Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 75,478



SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	7	21	14	7	49
BAYLOR	0	0	0	0	0

TEAM STATS

	BU	NU
First Downs	11	34
Rushing	5	27
Passing	4	6
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Attempts	34	65
Yards Gained Rushing	100	499
Yards Lost Rushing	68	8
Net yards rushing	32	491
Net yards passing	85	178
Passes attempted	20	17
Passes completed	10	8
Had intercepted	0	0
Total plays	54	82
Total net yards	117	669
Avg. gain per play	2.2	8.2
Fumbles-lost	3-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	8-55	5-68
Punts-yards	9-436	1-0
Avg. per punt	48.4	0.0
Possession time	30:30	29:30

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Williams	2	6	8	1	0
Farley	3	4	7	0	0
Rucker	3	2	5	0	0
Wistrom	2	4	6	0.5	0
Shaw	3	1	4	1	0
Foreman	1	3	4	0.5	0
Hess	1	2	3	0	0
Minter	1	2	3	0	0
Warfield	2	1	3	0	0
Kelsay	0	2	2	0	0
Jackson, J.	1	1	2	1	0
Booker	0	2	2	0	0
List	2	0	2	0	0
Tomich	0	1	1	0	0
Ogard	1	0	1	1	0
Peter	0	1	1	0	0

BAYLOR	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Codie	4	6	10	0	0
Artmore	3	9	12	0	0
Cruse	3	5	8	0	0
Henderson	4	3	7	0	0
Mason	1	6	7	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Benning	22	135	6.1	18	3
Evans	12	105	8.7	33	2
Frost	12	90	7.5	22	1
Turman	2	44	22.0	45	1
Sims	6	39	6.5	17	0
Schuster	6	28	7.0	7	0
Perino	1	28	28.0	28	0

BAYLOR	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Ford	11	57	5.2	15	0
Rubin	5	16	3.2	7	0
Burkins	3	11	3.6	6	0

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Cheatham	2	19	8.0	10	0
Schuster	1	48	48.0	48	0
Vedral	1	41	41.0	41	0
Jackson, S.	1	31	31.0	31	0
Brown, L.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Holbein	1	11	11.0	11	0
Evans	1	6	6.0	6	0

BAYLOR	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Ford	3	22	7.3	18	0
Muhammad	2	19	8.0	12	0
Domel	2	6	3.0	3	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD
Player			
Frost	8-15-0	178	
Turman	0-2-0	0	0

BAYLOR	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Player			
Alfred	10-20-0	85	

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
Brown, K.	2	0	0

BAYLOR	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
Atteberry	1	0	0

PUNT RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Benning	3	25	8.3	15	0
Fullman	3	46	15.3	18	0

BAYLOR	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Artmore	1	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
None					

BAYLOR	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Muhammad	1	14	14.0	14	0

1996 SEASON STATS

(5 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	4	71	387	96.7	3
Evans, D.	4	40	347	86.8	5
Benning, D.	4	49	281	70.3	4
Frost, S.	5	53	232	46.4	3
Sims, J.	4	21	113	28.3	1
Shuster, B.	5	20	96	19.2	1
Turman, M.	5	11	76	15.2	0
Makovicka, J.	3	7	36	12.0	0
Cobb, J.	8	8	36	13.0	0
Legate, B.	3	5	8	4.0	0
Kingston, B.	2	5	5	2.5	0
Cheatham, K.	2	1	-16	-8.0	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	5	40-81-1	49.3	540	4
Turman, M.	5	6-13-0	46.2	91	1
Perino, J.	1	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Holbein, B.	5	10	151	15.1	30.2	1
Vedral, J.	5	7	146	20.9	29.2	0
Green, A.	4	6	56	9.3	14.0	0
Jackson, V.	3	3	34	11.3	11.3	2
Shuster, B.	5	3	74	24.6	14.8	0
Jackson, S.	3	3	40	13.3	13.3	1
Cheatham, K.	2	3	49	16.3	24.5	1
Brown, L.	2	2	44	22.0	22.0	0
Evans, D.	4	2	11	5.5	2.8	0
Lake, J.	1	1	12	12.0	12.0	0
Edwards, J.R.	2	1	10	10.0	5.0	0
Legate, B.	2	1	9	9.0	4.5	0
Wieting, S.	1	1	6	6.0	6.0	0
Makovicka, J.	3	1	3	3.0	3.0	0
Benning, D.	3	1	-1	-1.0	-0.3	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att	Good	Long
Brown, K.	5	10	7	50

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	5	20	30	50	1	4
Hesse, J.	5	13	27	40	0	2
Wistrom, G.	5	10	15	25	1	4.5
Peter, J.	5	7	17	24	0	2
Foreman, J.	5	7	16	23	0	0.5
Stokes, E.	4	10	8	18	0	0
Minter, M.	5	5	13	18	3	0
Farley, T.	3	8	8	16	0	1
Rucker, M.	4	7	7	14	0	2.5
Kelsay, C.	5	6	8	14	0	2
Tomich, J.	5	2	11	13	0	1
Warfield, E.	5	6	7	13	1	0
McFarlin, O.	4	4	8	12	0	0
Booker, M.	5	3	9	12	1	0
Brown, R.	4	6	4	10	2	0
Terwilliger, R.	3	2	8	10	0	0
Ogard, J.	4	4	6	9	0	1
Wiltz, J.	4	2	6	8	0	1
Fullman, M.	4	4	2	6	0	0
List, G.	4	4	1	6	0	0
Brown, M.	4	4	1	5	0	0
Shaw, B.	3	2	1	3	0	0
Ortiz, T.	2	2	1	4	0	0
Jackson, J.	2	2	1	3	0	0
Toline, T.	2	1	1	3	0	0
Legate, B.	3	0	3	3	0	0
Saltsman, S.	2	2	1	3	0	0
Walther, E.	2	2	1	2	0	0
Johnson, E.	2	1	1	2	0	0
Roberts, M.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Warren, S.	2	0	1	1	0	0.5

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	2,253	1,085
Net Rushing Yards	1,622	308
Passing Yards	631	871

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	27	70	19	42	208
Opponents	9	17	7	12	45

1996 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record	(Conference)	4-1 (2-0)
Sept. 7	Michigan State	W, 55-14
Sept. 21	@ Arizona State	L, 19-0
Sept. 28	Colorado State	W, 65-9
Oct. 5	@ Kansas State	W, 39-3
Oct. 12	Baylor	W, 49-0
Oct. 19	@ Texas Tech	
Oct. 26	Kansas	
Nov. 2	@ Oklahoma	
Nov. 9	Missouri	
Nov. 16	@ Iowa State	
Nov. 29	Colorado	

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Celebrity Status

Nebraska's offensive linemen are among the most-respected in the country. Many recruits hope to continue the tradition.

Nebraska is one of the few programs in the country where the offensive linemen are celebrities. The Cornhuskers turn out so many All-Americans that voters look to Nebraska first when making out their preseason lists.

Don't think for a minute that prep linemen across the country don't notice so many Huskers earning postseason awards and earning spots in the NFL draft. The best of the best in the country always seem to keep an eye on Lincoln.

The Huskers have already earned a commitment from the top offensive line prospect in Nebraska. Lincoln (Southeast) star **Kyle Kollmorgan** (6-foot-4, 267 pounds, 5.2 seconds in the 40-yard dash) announced his intention to attend Nebraska during the summer, right after taking an unofficial trip to Kansas State.

"I am just so encouraged with what I see, and have always seen from the Nebraska program," Kollmorgan said. "They have the consistency of a great program every year, and it never wavers. In every sense of the word, Nebraska is so solid with what they do within their program."

"Their coaching staff has been together for a while, they always win, give you a good education and take care of their players. They also have an awesome tradition with their offensive linemen. Nebraska's offensive line plays close to perfect, year in and year out."

Nebraska has lost out on the second-ranked offensive line prospect in the state. **Steve Alstadt** (6-5, 255, 5.2) of Fort Calhoun has committed to Kansas State. **David Volk** (6-6, 270, 5.2) of Battlecreek still is waiting on an offer from Nebraska. Indications are if the Huskers offer a scholarship, Volk would accept over Wyoming, Kansas State and Kansas.

Arizona boasts two of the top offensive linemen in the country,

and both are said to have great interest in the Huskers. **Erin Huizingh** (6-7, 250, 5.1) of Tempe (McClintock) and **Ralph Zarate** (6-5, 275, 4.9) of Tucson have the tremendous size and speed that college recruiters seek.

Huizingh, considered a bit of a project who is expected to grow into a 300-pounder, batted down eight passes and also is an excellent basketball player.

"It's fun playing defense for now, but everybody is recruiting me at offensive tackle," Huizingh said. "I really enjoy playing out on the edge and feel I am getting better every day."

Huizingh's father was born in Michigan, and the Wolverines lead the Cornhuskers, Stanford, Arizona State and Arizona.

Zarate, who can bench 350 pounds and can squat 520, said he loves protecting the blind side of the quarterback.

"I want the pressure of protecting my quarterback," Zarate said. "I want him to trust me enough that he doesn't even think about the player across from me. If I succeed, then more than likely my team succeeds, and I like that."

Zarate will take that attitude to Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona, Arizona State or UCLA.

Zach Lamonda (6-2, 280, 4.9) of Anaheim (Servite), Calif., also said he prides himself on protecting his quarterback every game. Lamonda does the dirty work for prep preseason All-American **Greg Cicero** and is reportedly hoping to play for Nebraska.

"Nebraska has always been one of the programs that I have admired," Lamonda said. "If you are an offensive lineman, Nebraska has to be one of the programs you always study and want to look at. Their tradition in the offensive line is unbelievable."

Lamonda is being recruited by



**By
JAMES
HALE**



many as a center, and could play nose guard on defense. He said Nebraska is out in front of Colorado, Oklahoma, California and Oregon.

Ron Price (6-3, 271, 5.0) of San Jose (Hill), Calif., is another top talent on the west coast. How many times do you see an offensive lineman earn MVP honors of their league? Price did as a junior and is a preseason All-American as a senior. Price can bench 300 pounds and squat 500, and also made 51 stops on defense a year ago. California is the early leader, with Nebraska, Michigan and Florida State still chasing.

The best in Florida is **Ronald Boldin** (6-6, 270, 5.1) of Pahokee. In fact, Boldin plays the offensive line like a defensive end. His aggressive attitude has cost him a penalty or two, but most college recruiters see that attitude as a positive.

"I don't like to play soft in a game. I don't care if I am playing on the offensive line or not," Boldin said. "I do need to control my temper in a game, and I believe I am working on that. I am more of a disciplined player now and I feel much better for it."

Boldin has great feet, pulls well and uses his hands well up front, earning preseason All-America honors. He said Nebraska and Auburn are his top two choices, way out in front of Florida State, West Virginia and Tennessee.

Ben Brown (6-5, 295, 5.0) of Clearwater (Countryside) is another top-100 player out of Florida who moves incredibly well for a big man. Brown benches 415 pounds and has said he likes Florida, Alabama, Nebraska, Tennessee and Notre Dame.

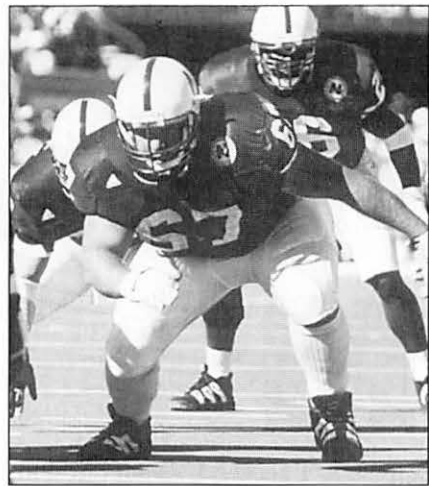
In Georgia, **Darryl Dupree** (6-3, 305, 5.1) of Decatur (Southwest DeKalb) is one of the top 100 players in the South. Incredibly strong, Dupree can bench 420 pounds, squat 600, and is the cousin of St. Louis Rams defensive end Fred Stokes. Dupree said Nebraska is way out in front of USC, Michigan, Tennessee and Florida.

Other top offensive linemen taking a long look at Nebraska include **Kyle Benn** (6-4, 285, 5.0) of Seattle (O'Dea), regarded as the top offensive lineman in Washington. Benn said Washington, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Stanford and UCLA are his final five.

Jeff Hellerstedt (6-4, 262, 5.2) of Bentonville is a top-10 talent in

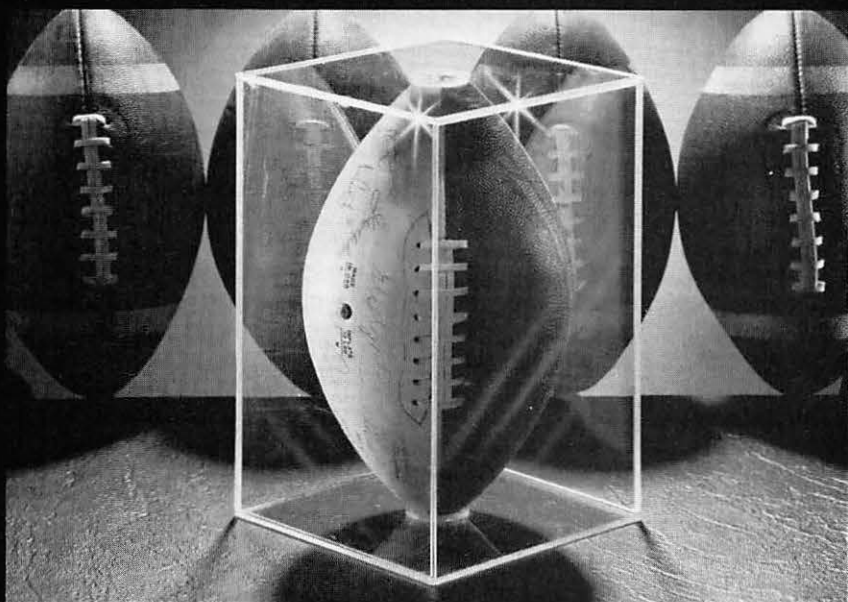
Arkansas. Hellerstedt says his top five are Kansas State, Arkansas, OU, Nebraska and Georgia Tech. **Oliver King** (6-4, 280, 4.8) of Saginaw, Mich., pulls well for a big man and benches 315 pounds. King said he likes Nebraska over Michigan State, Illinois, Louisville, Wisconsin and Michigan.

The Huskers' offensive line list always changes as the team moves through the recruiting process. Nebraska also waits for offensive linemen to develop late and isn't afraid to give a scholarship to a late-bloomer. **Clifton Lea** (6-4, 260, 4.9) of Morris, Ill., said he's choosing between Illinois, Northwestern, Indiana, Iowa State, Iowa and Nebraska. ■



Offensive linemen like Aaron Taylor make the position seem glamorous for the Huskers.

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Juggling A

Major college athletics can often be the toughest business around. Ask any coach, athletic director, player or die-hard fan. Everybody wants to win, and be No. 1 on the depth chart.

But all of those things seem so matter-of-fact to Nebraska volleyball player Maria Hedbeck.

Hedbeck has many duties for the defending national champion Huskers. She is a leader, a coach, a fan and a nurturing influence for a young team. But the one thing she is not is a full-time starter.

"I don't think I have that much to learn when it comes to technique," Hedbeck said. "I only play (on the) back row, and I've been here for a long time. I kind of know what is expected of me. I don't need coaches telling me what to do all the time. I can't do it all the time, anyway. But I know what to work hard on, so I try to inform the other players about what the coaches want, some of the technical stuff."

Hedbeck, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter from Sollentuna, Sweden, takes volleyball in stride, and for what it is — a game. She admits she thought her career as a Husker would include being a starting hitter for four years. But the fact that that didn't happen hasn't sent her cowering in a corner.

"I think I've dealt with the change of playing all-around to just playing in the back row pretty well. I had to set new goals after two years, but I think I'm pretty much playing like I want to play now," Hedbeck said. "I

didn't expect to be playing for two or three years. Then I thought, hopefully, I would get to start as a senior. It turned out to be a little differ-

ent than that. I got to start my first two years, and I don't start now. But it was a good thing, I think, that I got to start in the beginning, getting thrown into it, getting to know what

Not only a defensive stopper, Maria Hedbeck has taken on the roll of tutor and coach to NU's up-and-coming players

• By Mike Friend

it was all about from the start."

Hedbeck, a psychology major carrying a 3.4 grade-point average, admits that she doesn't expect starting time simply based on experience, and she doesn't expect coach Terry Pettit, or any other coach, to have to massage her ego.

"I think (Pettit) likes to keep a certain distance, which I think is good," Hedbeck said. "I don't want to be good friends with my head coach. I want to keep my distance. It's not that I don't have the ultimate respect for him. I'm just more confident that way. He's one of the most knowledgeable coaches I've ever seen. He taught me a lot about preparing for games ... more of the game situations, more about the opposite team, what to scout, what we need to look for in certain rotations, stuff like that."

Pettit said he has similar respect for Hedbeck, explaining that because

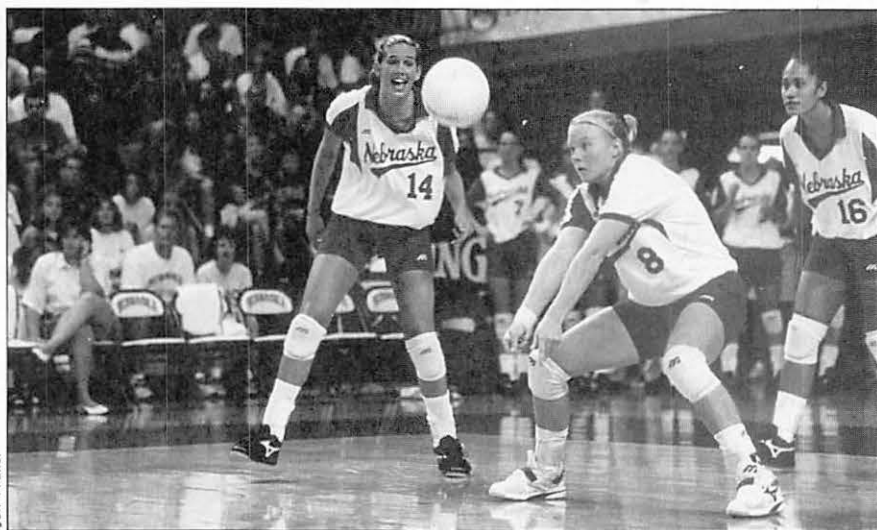
of her, he has worked a substitution plan to give her the maximum playing time. Pettit said the Huskers, who were ranked No. 4 by *Volleyball Magazine* at the end of September, need Hedbeck on the floor as much as possible.

"One of the reasons we start Stacie Maser and she subs out and Tonia (Tauke) comes in three times is to get Hedbeck in the match three times. We're at our best when Hedbeck is in the match. I've basically designed a system that allows a substitute to be on the court as much as she can," said Pettit.

Hedbeck's numbers are modest at first glance — in the first 12 matches, she had 87 digs for a 1.977 digs-per-game average. She had six attack attempts, with one kill in 44 games. But it is the teaching Hedbeck does that is her most significant contribution to Nebraska's success.

"She's done two things really well," Pettit said of Hedbeck. "She's an exceptional defensive player, and when we played Michigan State (in early September), she played great

Hedbeck earned Co-Backcourt Specialist of the Year honors last season as a junior.



Jon Waller

**SIDE
OUT**

Act

volleyball. She kept us in rallies.

"The other thing she has done that you wouldn't see is, she basically tutors Renee Saunders, Kim Crandall, (Megan) Korver and Tauke every day in practice. Renee had 16 digs against Kansas State. That's remarkable for somebody who is on the court half the time. Maria is partly responsible for that because she works with Renee every day."

Crandall and Tauke are freshmen. Saunders and Korver are sophomores. Korver is in her first season at Nebraska, after transferring from George Washington University.

The information the young players are given often is more than they can take.

"In a way," Hedbeck said. "The coaches tell the players a lot of things, so when I come up and tell them something, their heads are full. They can't take anymore. But when I start seeing them do things that I've told them about, it's satisfaction for me, and I'm glad that they are getting better and improving their game."

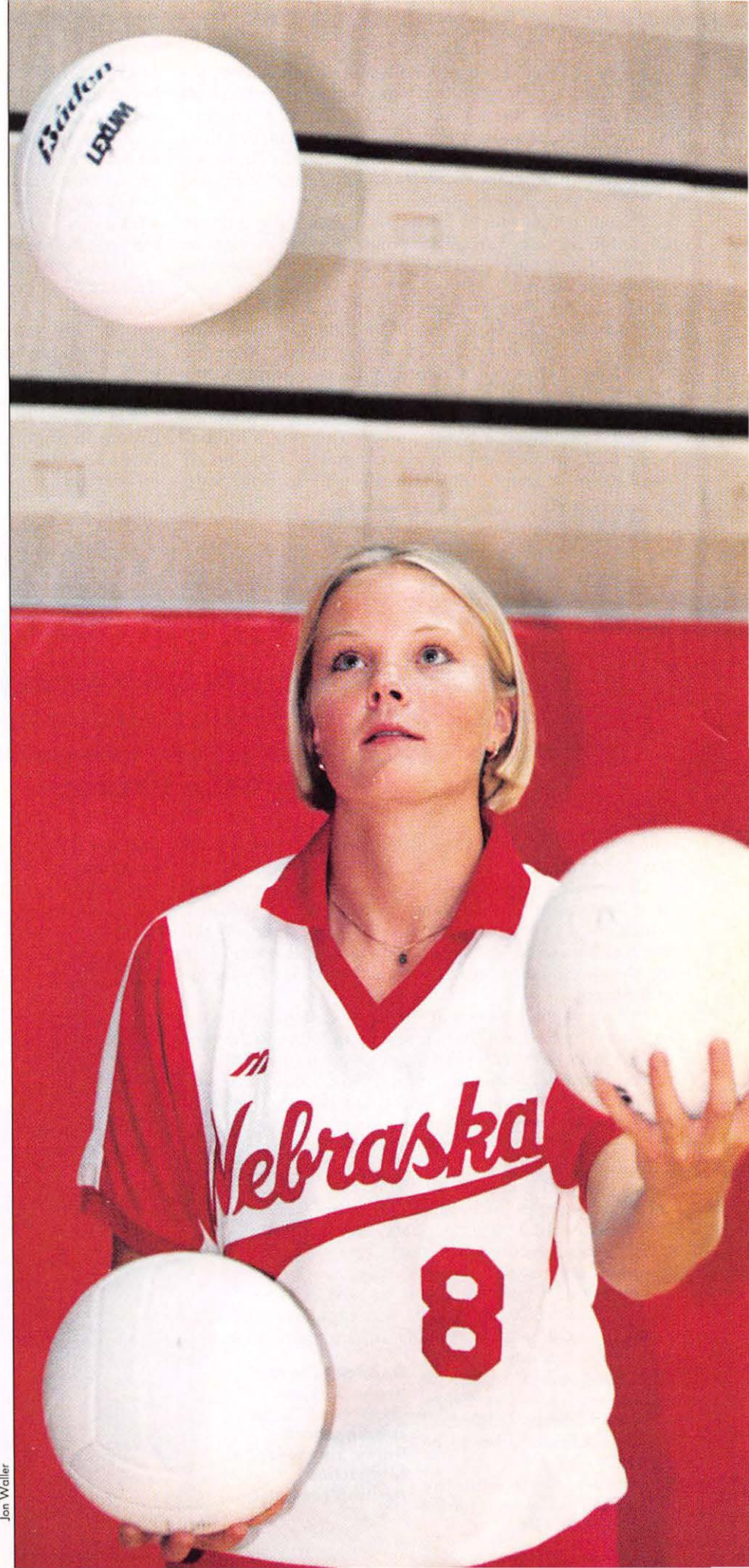
With injuries to several key players, the Huskers need Hedbeck's leadership more than ever.

"Remembering when Jen McFadden tore her ACL (anterior cruciate ligament), it kind of felt like it was the end of the season," said Hedbeck.

"But I think somehow we've gotten used to it (being without McFadden). We kind of learned to accept it. We know that we would have been a better team at the beginning of the season if she (McFadden) was on the court. We have two great middle blockers in Tonia (Tauke) and Megan (Korver) who lack the experience that Jen McFadden had, of course. At the end of the season, (however), I don't think it's going to make as much difference. They will gain experience."

Hedbeck remains right in the heart and soul of the Husker squad. She clearly loves volleyball and thinks about coaching someday, maybe as a way of paying for graduate school.

"I've always loved it," she said. "I still do." ■



Jon Waller

On a cold and wet Halloween night in 1992, the Nebraska football team accomplished at least two things of significance at Memorial Stadium. It transformed a game against Colorado into a nightmare for the Buffaloes. And it convinced DeAngelo Evans he wanted to be a Cornhusker.

Evans, a high school freshman, was among those in the sellout crowd of 76,287 that night. He had come from Wichita, Kan., with Nick Brown, a friend whose dad was a Nebraska alum.

The game was the focus of the university's Homecoming activities. It made an indelible impression on the awestruck Evans. "I was amazed," he said recently. "From that point on, I knew I was going to come here."

There were detours along the way. Evans, who had already established a reputation for carrying a football when he made that first trip to Memorial Stadium, nearly went to Notre Dame, and he nearly went to Penn State.

at Oklahoma State in 1988 before moving on to become an All-Pro with the Detroit Lions, had to wait two seasons behind Thurman Thomas.

Evans was willing to wait. He wasn't willing to sit out a redshirt season, however. He was up-front about that during the recruiting process. The Nebraska coaches "said they didn't plan on red-shirting me," said Evans. "I figured they would use me (as a freshman). How early I didn't know."

Evans, whose rise on the depth chart has been dramatic, did his homework before choosing Nebraska. "I looked back through the history books," he said. "They gave Ahman (Green) a chance as a freshman, and Lawrence (Phillips) . . . I knew I just had to prove I was worthy of not red-shirting."

He wasted little time in proving that. Against Colorado State, he returned kickoffs 37 and 35 yards and rushed for 72 yards and a touchdown, on only six carries. "He's playing very much like a

The Prototype

**The numbers and size are basically the same.
But can DeAngelo Evans measure up to the Barry
Sanders yardstick he's been compared to so often?**

• **By Mike Babcock**

Those were the other qualifiers for the finals of the recruiting race.

Ohio State and Kansas were among those in the semifinal heats. Kansas State was eliminated in the prelims, which didn't set all that well with Wildcat coach Bill Snyder. A program's long-term success depends on keeping the state's best players at home. And Evans was one of the best.

In four varsity seasons at Wichita's Collegiate High, a small, private school that competes in Class 3A, Evans rushed for 8,473 yards. He missed six games his senior season because of an ankle injury. Otherwise, he would have come close to 10,000 yards rushing, based on his career average.

Evans averaged 206.7 rushing yards per game, fourth-best all-time for a high school player. He rushed for 100 or more yards in 38 games, including 31 in a row. He averaged 10.6 yards per carry, for his career. And he scored 131 touchdowns, the third-best prep career total nationally.

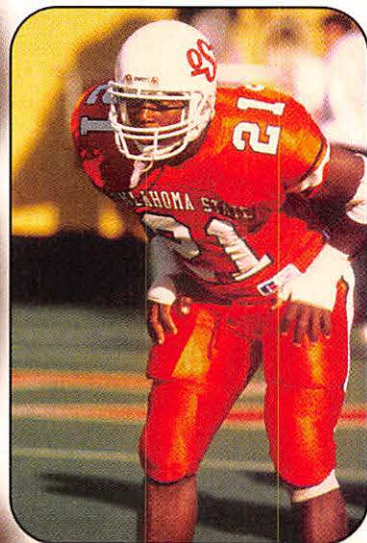
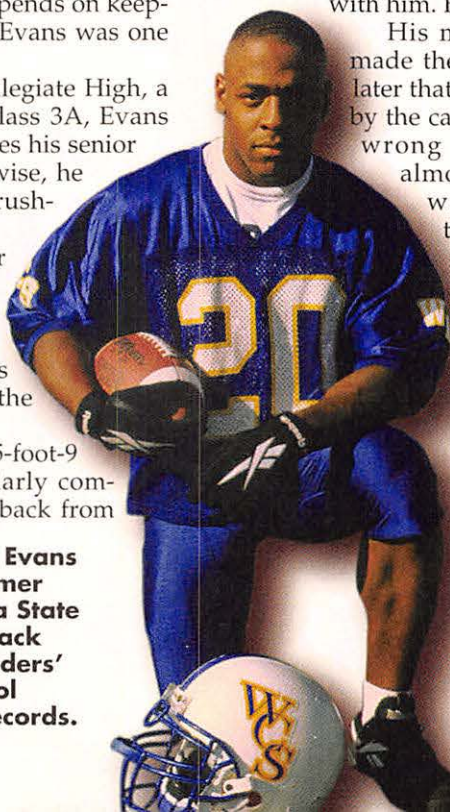
Because of his numbers, and his size (5-foot-9 and 220 pounds, now), Evans was regularly compared to Barry Sanders, another running back from Wichita. Evans has an uncle who was Sanders' teammate in high school. Before Evans came to Nebraska this fall, Sanders advised him to be patient.

Sanders, who won the Heisman Trophy as a junior

veteran right now," coach Tom Osborne said at his Tuesday news conference the week after the game. "DeAngelo just doesn't consider himself a freshman. We've been real impressed with how hard he works at things, how fast he picks things up and how things stick with him. He's shown great maturity."

His maturity was apparent as Evans made the rounds for television interviews later that day. He wasn't shy or intimidated by the cameras. "You don't want to say the wrong thing. But sometimes, you're almost baited to," he said. "I think I was prepared because I went through this a lot in high school."

DeAngelo Evans broke former Oklahoma State running back Barry Sanders' high school rushing records.





Jon Waller

He accommodated every request, which meant he had to hurry to make team meetings before practice. Requests for interviews, the constant companions of high-profile Cornhuskers, eventually become a burden. But for now, "it's an honor," he said. "A lot of people would love to be doing this."

After his trip to Lincoln for the Colorado game in 1992, Evans engrossed himself in Nebraska football. He followed the exploits of Calvin Jones and then Lawrence Phillips, imagining himself following in their footsteps. "I was awestruck," he said. "I knew this was where I wanted to play football."

Evans, who grew up in a tough Wichita neighborhood, went to Collegiate High School with the help of his parents, Earnestine and Eric Evans. They got financial aid to pay his tuition and encouraged him when he got down. As a result, he came to Nebraska well-prepared, academically and athletically.

Despite his passion for the Cornhuskers, he "got swayed by Notre Dame and Penn State" during the recruiting process, he said. He was set to commit to the Fighting Irish but changed his mind because his dad had reservations following a conversation with Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz. "Everyone thought that's where I was going to go," Evans said. "It shocked a lot of people when I didn't."

Evans announced his intention to sign a letter of intent with Nebraska in October. Though the oral commitment, four months before letters could be signed, wasn't binding, he had made up his mind.

The day he made the announcement, Penn State coach Joe Paterno called, unaware of Evans' decision to become a Cornhusker. "It was hard to tell Coach Paterno," Evans said.

Paterno made it a little easier. "I wish you the best," he told Evans.

Notre Dame, on the other hand, "didn't take it all that

well," said Evans. "I even heard they about tried to fire one of the guys who recruited me." Whether or not that was the truth or simply a rumor, it underscored the perceived value of Evans to the tradition-rich Fighting Irish.

Over the last decade, with a reduction in scholarship limits, Nebraska has been forced to use more true freshmen. Green and Phillips are among only a handful of I-backs who haven't been redshirted before playing significant roles for Osborne-coached teams. Keith Jones spent only two games with the junior varsity team before being promoted to the varsity as a freshman. Derek Brown spent a full academic year at Nebraska getting his grades in order before playing as a freshman in 1990.

Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier played his first collegiate season at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College before transferring and playing as a sophomore. And Monte Anthony got an opportunity to play right away, after junior John O'Leary was sidelined by a fractured jaw, suffered in the second game of the 1974 season. Otherwise, Nebraska's I-backs have had to be patient.

When Evans is on the field, he generates excitement, with strength as well as speed — he has been timed at 4.35 in the 40-yard dash. His height notwithstanding, he is powerful. He has a 355-pound bench press, a 570-pound squat and a 40-inch vertical jump (a measure of explosiveness).

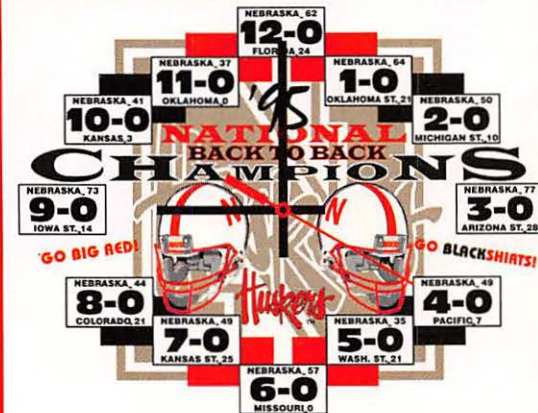
He has an uncanny ability to sense would-be tacklers, and he has watched Nebraska's offense enough that using his blockers has become second nature. "I know where my blocks are going to be. I study that a lot so I'll know what blocks I can use and where I'm going to have to beat somebody," he said.

It hasn't happened overnight, or as quickly as it might seem. Evans has been studying Cornhusker I-backs for more than four years now . . . since Halloween night in 1992, to be exact. ■

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the numbers game

Jerseys 41-50

Editor's Note: This is the sixth of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era.

Next week we'll break down numbers 51 through 60.

The center's importance to a team's offensive success has been underscored this season. The departure of Aaron Graham after last season left a significant void in the middle of Nebraska's line.

The responsibility of replacing Graham, who earned first-team All-America honors from both the Associated Press and *Football News*, fell on junior Aaron Taylor's shoulders. Taylor was first-team all-conference and a third-team *Football News* All-American as a guard last season.

Even so, Taylor's transition to center hasn't been an easy one. It took time. Now, he's becoming more comfortable at the position, and beginning to fit into a Nebraska tradition of outstanding centers.

The Cornhuskers have had 10 centers earn All-America honors, including four who were consensus selections and two who were All-Americans in back-to-back seasons. Dave Rimington was both.

In fact, he was arguably the best offensive lineman ever to play for Nebraska.

Consider his accomplishments:

The Outland Trophy was first presented to the nation's outstanding interior collegiate lineman by the

Football Writers Association in 1946. Since then, one player has been voted the award twice: Rimington. He won the Outland as a junior in 1981 (becoming one of only three juniors ever to win the award) and again as a senior in 1982.

Nebraska has produced more Outland Trophy winners than any other school. In addition to Rimington, twice, they include: Larry Jacobson (1971), Rich Glover (1972), Dean Steinkuhler (1983), Will Shields (1992) and Zach Wiegert (1994). Steinkuhler, Shields and Wiegert also were offensive linemen.

The Cornhuskers' seven Outland Trophies are three more than Oklahoma has earned. Notre Dame, Texas and Ohio State each have three. Six other schools have had two Outland Trophy-winners.

Rimington is one of only two centers who has won the Outland Trophy. (The other was North Carolina State's Jim Ritcher, in 1979.) He earned consensus All-America recognition twice. In 1981, he became the only lineman ever to be chosen as the Big Eight

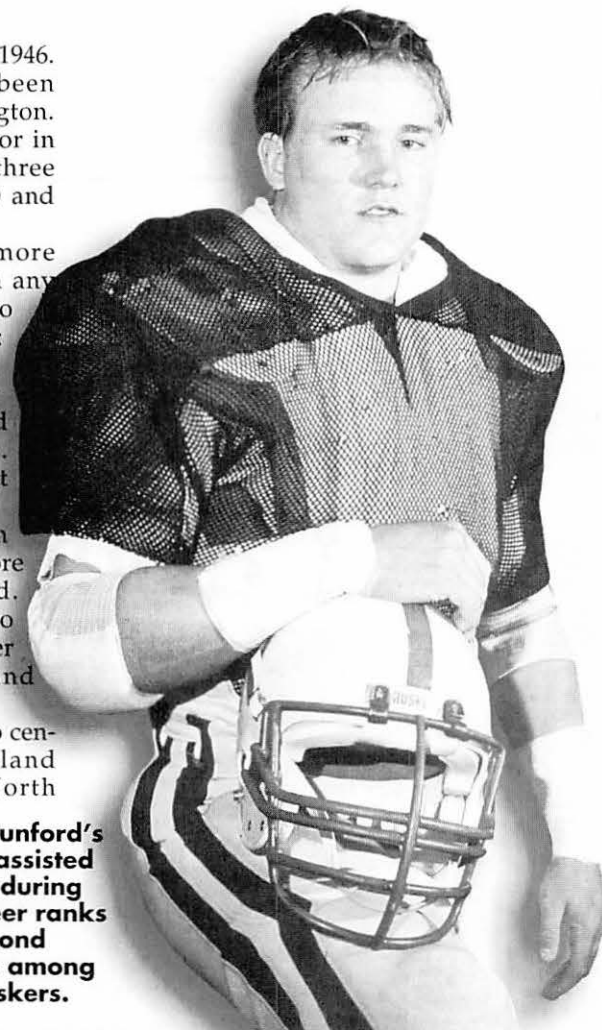
Offensive Player of the Year.

In 1982, he finished fifth in balloting for the Heisman Trophy, the highest finish by an interior offensive lineman since 1973, when Ohio State guard John Hicks was the runner-up.

Rimington came from Omaha South High to start for three seasons at Nebraska. He won the Lombardi Award as the nation's outstanding collegiate lineman in 1982. He was a two-time Academic All-American, a Cornhusker co-captain as a senior and a member of the 1982 All-America strength team.

Even though he was 6-foot-3 and 290 pounds (he could bench press 425), Rimington was extremely quick off the ball. One opposing defensive lineman said of him: "Most teams come off the ball together. He comes off the ball, takes three steps and BAM! Then the rest of the line moves."

Rimington, who considered submitting his name for the NFL draft



Marc Munford's 153 unassisted tackles during his career ranks him second all-time among Cornhuskers.

#41: Marc Munford
(1984-86)
Phil Ellis (1992-95)

#42: Jerry Murtaugh
(1968-70)

#43: Todd Millikan
(1985-88)

#44: Calvin Jones
(1991-93)
Bill Olds (1970-72)
Mike Knox (1981-85)

#45: Fred Shirey
(1935-37)
Tom Ruud (1972-74)
Dick Davis (1966-68)

Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)

after his junior year, stayed in Lincoln and was a first-round pick in 1983. His No. 50 jersey was the fourth to be retired by Nebraska.

Because of the numbers crunch, however, No. 50 again is being used. This season it is being worn by middle linebacker Julius Jackson, a red-shirt freshman from Gainesville, Texas.

Rimington is an easy choice in this fifth installment of *Huskers Illustrated's* "By the Numbers" series.

#41: Marc Munford

Also: Phil Ellis

Marc Munford is sixth on Nebraska's career tackles list. He made 256 during his three seasons, including 153 unassisted, a total that ranks second all-time among Cornhuskers.

Munford, from Littleton, Colo., was an athletic weakside linebacker, who earned first-team all-conference honors in each of his three seasons. He made a dramatic comeback from reconstructive knee surgery at the end of his junior season and was chosen a team co-captain in 1986.

He intercepted six passes during his career and had 15 tackles for losses totaling 68 yards.

Phil Ellis (1992-95) is among other

notable Cornhuskers who have worn No. 41. He was a middle linebacker and inspirational leader on Nebraska's back-to-back national championship teams. He was a co-captain last season and came back from a broken foot that sidelined him for four games to earn all-conference honorable mention and help the Cornhuskers wrap up their second national title.

#42: Jerry Murtaugh

Jerry Murtaugh was one of the roughest, toughest linebackers Nebraska has ever had. He is by far the Cornhuskers' career leader in tackles. His three-season total of 342 is 66 more than Lee Kunz's second-place total of 276. The 6-foot-3, 212-pound Murtaugh came from Omaha North High School to earn first-team All-Big Eight honors twice. He was an All-America selection in 1970.

Murtaugh was a co-captain on Nebraska's 1970 national championship team. He remains the standard by which Cornhusker linebackers are measured, in the Tom "Trainwreck" Novak tradition.

#43: Todd Millikan

Todd Millikan was recruited as a linebacker out of Shenandoah, Iowa. But he ended up at tight end, and became one of the Cornhuskers' most productive receivers in a four-year career. He ranks 30th on Nebraska's career receiving list, with

40 catches for 825 yards. But 14 of those 40 catches were for touchdowns, the most ever by a Cornhusker tight end and tied for the third-most overall.

Johnny Rodgers (1970-72) is first, with 26 touchdown receptions, and Jon Bostick (1989-91) is second, with 15. Then comes Millikan and Bobby Thomas (1974-76).

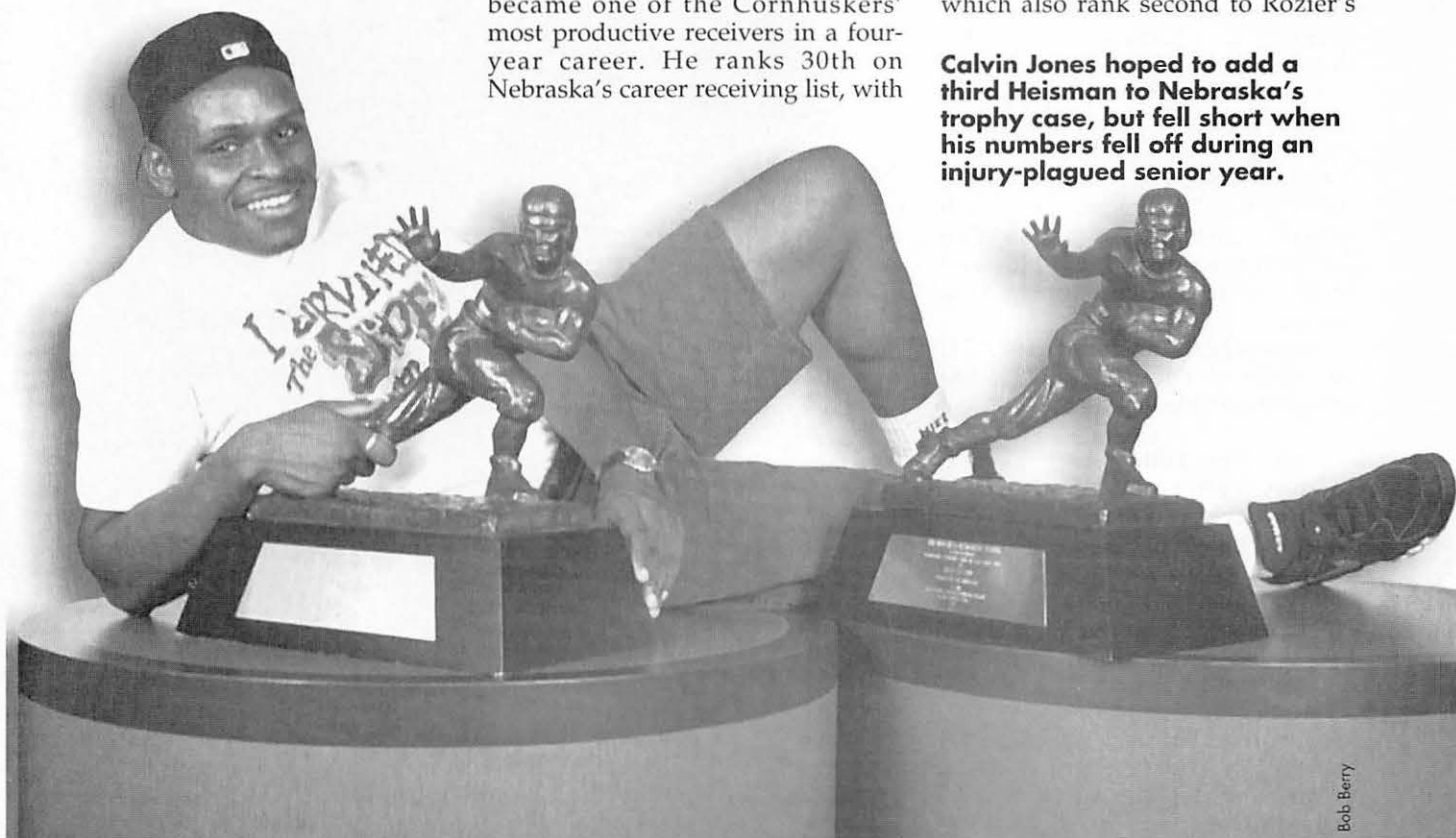
The 6-foot-3, 245-pound Millikan caught seven touchdown passes in 1988, to earn first-team all-conference recognition. He also holds the school record for the longest non-scoring pass reception. He and quarterback Steve Taylor teamed up on a 73-yard pass play in the South Carolina game at Columbia, S.C., in 1986. With 1:26 remaining in that game, Millikan caught a second pass. The play gained only 11 yards, but resulted in the touchdown that gave Nebraska a 27-24 comeback victory.

#44: Calvin Jones

Also: Bill Olds, Mike Knox

Had it not been for Heisman Trophy-winner Mike Rozier, Calvin Jones would be remembered as the greatest running back in Cornhusker history. He ranks second to Rozier in career rushing, with 3,153 yards (6.84 per carry) and 40 touchdowns, which also rank second to Rozier's

Calvin Jones hoped to add a third Heisman to Nebraska's trophy case, but fell short when his numbers fell off during an injury-plagued senior year.



#46: Tony Felici
(1980-82)

#47: Charles Brock
(1936-38)
Ray Richards (1927-29)

#48: Mike Anderson
(1990-93)

#49: Monte Anthony
(1974-77)

#50: Dave Rimington
(1979-82)
Walt Barnes (1963-65)

49 career scores. Jones also is second to Rozier in 100-yard rushing games, with 16.

Jones, a two-time, first-team All-Big Eight pick, is third in career scoring at Nebraska, behind Rozier and Rodgers, the Cornhuskers' other Heisman Trophy winner.

Jones' most memorable game came as a redshirt freshman in 1991, when he rushed for 294 yards and scored six touchdowns at Kansas. Both are Nebraska single-game records.

Bill Olds and Mike Knox are among other notable Cornhuskers who have worn jersey No. 44. Knox earned four letters as a linebacker, from 1981 to 1985. Olds was a rugged fullback, whose blocking helped open the way for Nebraska's offense in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

#45: Fred Shirey

Also: Tom Ruud, Dick Davis

Fred Shirey came from Latrobe, Penn., to earn All-America honors as a tackle in 1937, Biff Jones' first season as the Cornhuskers' head coach. Shirey was a three-time All-Big Six selection on teams with a combined record of 19-5-3, including three conference championships.

The 1936 team, coached by D. X. Bible, finished ninth in the first Associated Press national rankings. Shirey was a linemate of Charles Brock for two seasons.

Several other Cornhuskers who wore jersey No. 45 deserve mention, including Frank Solich, Nebraska's assistant head coach and running backs coach. Despite his size, Solich played fullback for coach Bob Devaney's teams in 1963, 1964 and 1965. He was a co-captain as a senior.

Linebacker Tom Ruud (1972-74) and fullback Dick Davis (1966-68) are other notables at No. 45.

#46: Tony Felici

Tony Felici played quarterback at Omaha Central High School, an indication of his athletic ability. He walked on at Nebraska and became a two-time All-Big Eight defensive end.

He began his junior season listed third on the depth chart, but became a starter after an outstanding performance in a 34-14 victory against Florida State. He picked up a Seminole

fumble on a kickoff and returned it 13 yards for a touchdown, in addition to making six tackles and a quarterback sack.

Later that season, Felici made 12 tackles and had five sacks in a 6-0 victory at Missouri.

He was small for a defensive end: 6-foot-2 and 205 pounds. But he made up for his lack of size with extraordinary quickness. He was a key figure on defense on the 1982 team, which finished 12-1 and arguably was coach Tom Osborne's best before the back-to-back national championship teams.

#47: Charles Brock

Also: Ray Richards

Charley Brock (6-foot-2, 195 pounds) was a contemporary of Fred Shirey (No. 45). He came from Columbus, Neb., to play center and linebacker for the Cornhuskers, earning All-Big Six honors in each of his three varsity seasons. He "sel-

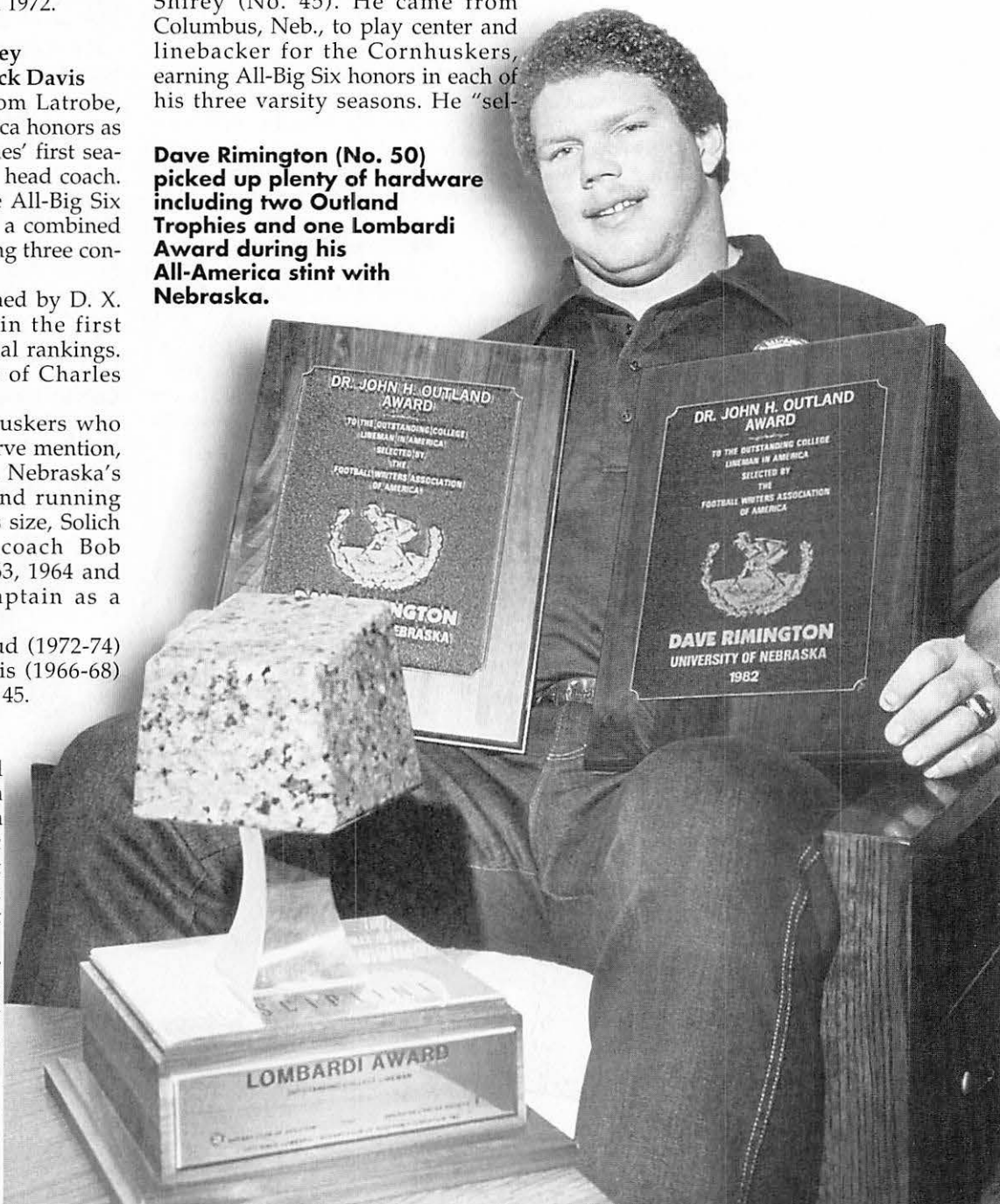
dom made a mistake," according to one observer.

Nebraska opened the 1937 season against defending national champion Minnesota. The previous year, when Brock was a sophomore, the Gophers needed a 75-yard run with 58 seconds remaining to win at Minneapolis, 7-0. They weren't so lucky when they came to Lincoln. A Brock fumble recovery at the Minnesota 24-yard line set up a Nebraska touchdown in the second quarter, and the Cornhuskers scored another on a pass for a 14-9 victory, their first against Minnesota since 1913.

Afterward, Minnesota coach Bernie Bierman said: "It was defense that beat us."

Brock and Shirey were key fig-

**Dave Rimington (No. 50)
picked up plenty of hardware
including two Outland
Trophies and one Lombardi
Award during his
All-America stint with
Nebraska.**



ures in that defense. Nebraska coach Biff Jones used an innovative, three-linebacker alignment, dropping Shirey off the line of scrimmage, to stop the Gophers.

Ray Richards, another Husker who wore jersey No. 47, earned All-America honors as a tackle in 1929, Bible's first season as Nebraska's head coach — and the first season of the Big Six.

#48: Mike Anderson

Mike Anderson, a 6-foot-2, 230-pound linebacker, is tied for 13th on the Cornhuskers' career tackles list, with 220. He is just ahead of Rich Glover. He was a steady performer, earning four letters from 1990 through 1993. He was a Butkus Award nominee in 1993, and earned all-conference honorable mention playing for the team that laid the groundwork for the back-to-back national championships.

Anderson is among many who have come from Grand Island, Neb., to play for the Cornhuskers.

#49: Monte Anthony

Monte Anthony came from Bellevue, Neb., to play fullback and I-back on Osborne's early teams. He was chosen as the Big Eight Freshman of the Year in 1974, after leading the Cornhuskers in rushing with 587 yards. He was the first (and only) Nebraska freshman ever to do so.

The 6-foot-3, 208-pound Anthony was most productive as a sophomore, again leading Nebraska in rushing with 723 yards and seven touchdowns. He was hampered by injuries as a junior and senior (he carried only 45 times in 1977). Nevertheless, he became the fourth Cornhusker to rush for 2,000 yards during his career. His 2,077-yard total ranks 16th on Nebraska's career rushing list.

#50: Dave Rimington

In addition to Rimington, Walt Barnes wore a No. 50 jersey during his Nebraska career, which included first-team all-conference honors in 1964 (as a middle guard) and 1965 (as a defensive tackle). The 6-foot-2, 240-pound Barnes came from Chicago and began his NU career as a center. He then became the leading tackler for a defense that helped the Cornhuskers finish the 1965 regular season 10-0 and ranked No. 3 in the nation, before falling to national champion Alabama in the Orange Bowl game. ■


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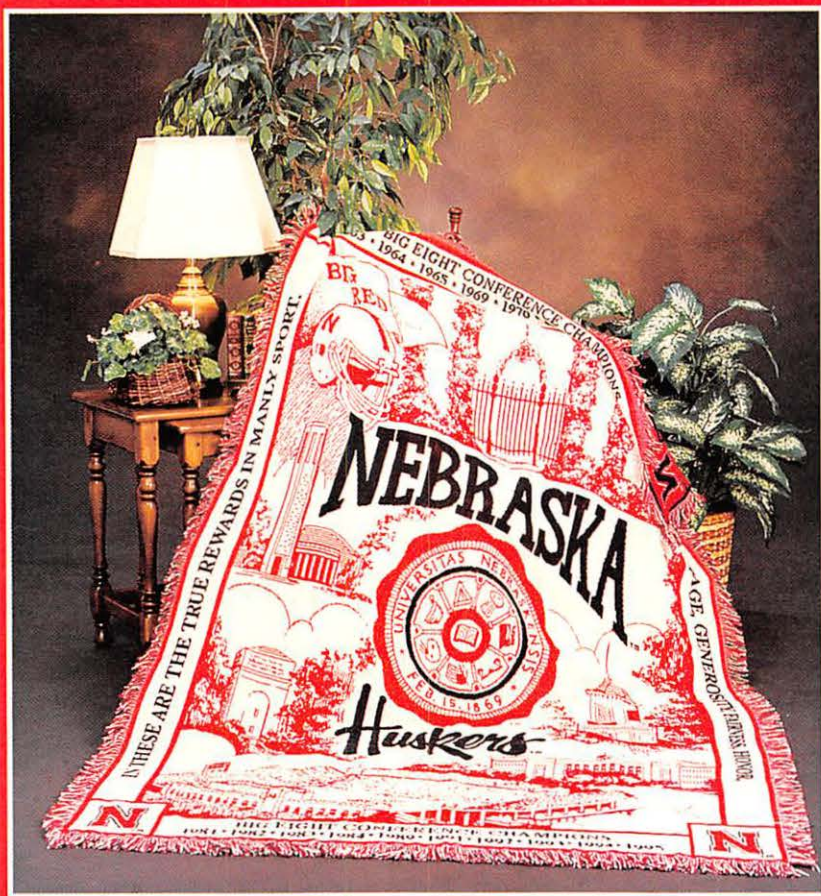
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what if my face really does stay that way?



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what if?



what if?



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